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CONTENTS

Multiple dimensions of passerine morning flight in central New York State: Species, numbers, direction, and altitude Bill Evans	2
Notes and Observations An exceptional finch flight on Long Island's North Fork MaryLaura Lamont	14
Patch Birding: South Shore roots Bob Grover	14
Fifty Years Ago in <i>The Kingbird</i>	16
Editor's Note and Corrigenda	17
Highlights of the Season, Fall 2020 Michael F. Cooper	18
Regional Reports Fall 2020	21
Photo Gallery Fall 2020	49
Standard Regional Report Abbreviations, Reporting Deadlines, and Map of Reporting Regions	99

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Back Cover – Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Ashokan Reservoir, *Ulster*, 18 Oct 2020, © Jay McGowan.

MULTIPLE DIMENSIONS OF PASSERINE MORNING FLIGHT IN CENTRAL NEW YORK STATE: SPECIES, NUMBERS, DIRECTION, AND ALTITUDE

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This is a recap of 2020 fall migration morning flight observations of passerines made from an inland site in the Town of Danby, southern Tompkins County, central New York State (lat: 42.34324, long: -76.50394). Beginning 6 Aug, I sampled migratory flight activity for at least a short period each morning, logging as best I could numbers, flight direction, general altitude, and behavior characteristics for each species. The count site is about eight miles directly south of the south end of Cayuga Lake, on the weathered south-southeastern rim of the Lake Ontario Basin. At 488 m above sea level, it also is a point along the zig-zag northern reaches of the Appalachian-Allegheny Plateau. With a nearly unobstructed view to the northwest, north, and northeast, one looks out northward across a hayfield and patchy forested landscape, terrain that generally descends in altitude for about 100 km to Lake Ontario.

As I begin this write-up it is 18 Dec, a few days before the start of winter and a day after a major snowstorm has blanketed much of northeastern U.S. The count site received 38 cm of snow, with 76 cm in Tioga County (16 km to the south) and 101 cm in Broome County (55 km to the southeast). The snow is too deep for me to walk to the count site, so I drive. Normally I would park off the side of the road, but in order to do so this morning I first need to shovel out a space in the dense wall of snow created by the plow. The few people who drive by regularly have seen me scanning with binoculars from the site each morning for four months. Perhaps then I was just a curiosity; now I imagine they see a madman vigorously shoveling snow on the edge of a field. The urgency and excitement this morning is driven by possibility: will the Red Crossbills that have occupied pinecone-laden eastern NY in the great finch irruption of 2020 pick up camp and move out now that part of their food supply (cones on the ground) is suddenly buried under snow? Will the curious westward pulse of Purple Finches that has occurred over the past two weeks continue, now more than a month after the main wave passed? How long will the Cedar Waxwing flight persist? Will any Pine Grosbeaks or Bohemian Waxwings drift south? I am in a ready state of mind where the next bird I see may be the leading edge of a continental movement.

This year's regular daily count was possible because my family and I have been largely homebound during the Covid-19 pandemic. The count was not intended to be precisely consistent regarding the start time relative to sunrise or in the length of time surveyed. I generally aimed to be at the watch site in the 15 minutes before sunrise and count for at least 30 minutes. If steady morning flight

continued, I stayed until it had diminished, usually less than two hours; for exceptional flight mornings I stayed longer. On average over the 133 days of the survey reported here, I counted just under 1.5 hours per morning, and the starting time was within 15 minutes of local sunrise on all but eleven mornings. Figure 1 shows how my count period varied in length during the season.

I approached the count with a preliminary goal of establishing a baseline for flight activity of common migrant species like Cedar Waxwing and American Robin. I used a pair of Celestron NatureDX 8x42s, preferring a relatively wide field of view for helping quickly find birds passing over in the sky and for estimating the number of individuals in flocks.

The following are season accounts for selected passerine species for which I logged at least 20 individuals. Each species summary includes a graph showing the weekly rate of passage, with the number of the species counted during the week divided by the number of hours surveyed during the week. In the narrative for each species, flight altitude is reported as distance above ground level at the count site. Information on other species and more details regarding this count are available by accessing the “Cayuga South” migration count site at www.trektellen.nl

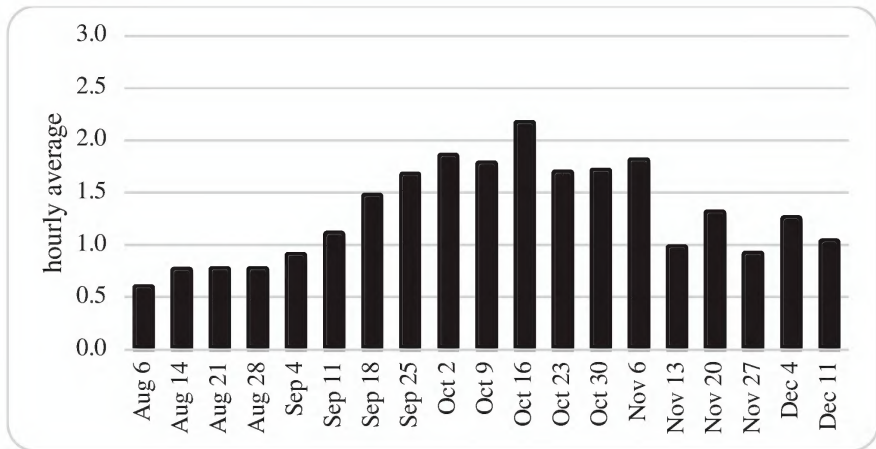


Figure 1. Average coverage per morning (total = 171 hours) at a Danby, Tompkins, NY, morning flight site, by count week, 6 Aug-17 Dec 2020.

Northern Flicker The flight was characterized by a slow onset to the peak week of the season, which began 2 Oct. Regular morning flight activity occurred between mid-September and mid-October and 80% of the flight occurred in the two weeks from 22 Sep to 6 Oct. The largest morning total was 12 on 3 Oct and the largest group passing together was three. Flickers often appeared from the east and headed west to northwest. Flight altitude was less than 40 m and the range of detection was up to 500 m to the north and northwest.

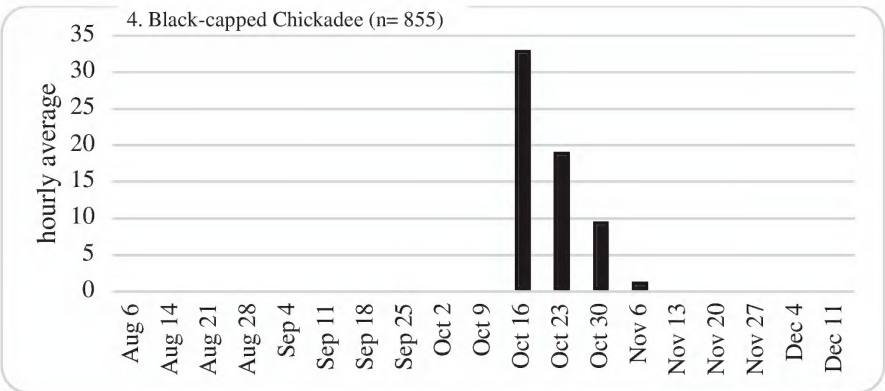
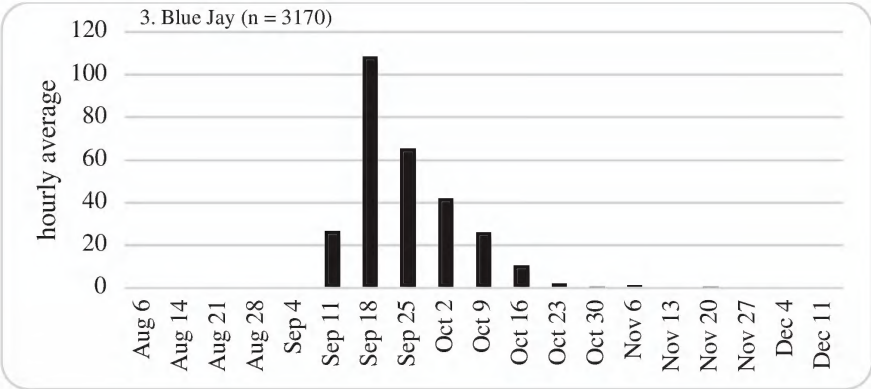
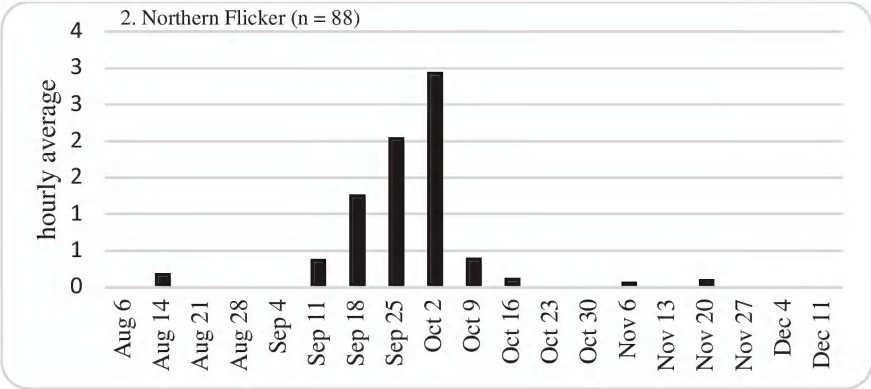
Blue Jay The flight was characterized by a sudden onset to peak flight density. Their movement got going in the week of 11 Sep and the peak flight occurred the next week (18-24 Sep). The bulk (92%) of the flight occurred over 30 days 15 Sep through 14 Oct, with 72% in the 17-day period 18 Sep-4 Oct. The largest flight morning was 18 Sep with 288 in 1.5 hours. That day also had the largest flock of the season, 58. Flight direction was predominantly toward the south or southwest. Later in the morning count period, a regular stream of singles (never flocks) often was seen flying eastward. In many cases these birds had what appeared to be acorns in their mouths. Since this seemed like a flight associated with feeding and not migration, these birds were not tallied in the count.

Jays migrated every morning during the peak flight period regardless of wind direction, even into strong southerly headwinds. In the latter cases, flight altitude would be low, with largish flocks passing just 3-12 m over the watch site. On mornings with northerly winds, flight altitude could be surprisingly high with a few flocks estimated to be passing at least 150 m overhead. In general, they passed at less than 60 m.

Most jays were counted as they passed from left to right over the swale or ridge to the north. Because of the Blue Jay's distinctive individual manner of flight and flock spacing, individuals could be detected and counted out to ~550 m to the north and northwest.

Black-capped Chickadee Chickadee migration was an unexpected phenomenon at the count site. A few small local flocks had been present in the woods nearby, with no more than eight typically noted in a morning through 18 Oct. But an increase in activity was noticed 19 Oct. It became apparent that chickadee flocks were moving southward toward the count site along the forest edge to the north, then turning and following the edge's bend to the southwest and crossing the road right behind the watch site. This species' flight, which occurred largely on six mornings during the brief period 19 Oct-6 Nov, is described in daily detail here. On 19 Oct three noisy flocks of 10, 18, and 11 crossed the road in 1.7 hours of counting. On 20 Oct, flocks of 12 and 31 passed in about two hours of counting. Then on 21 Oct, 34 flocks totaling 417 individuals passed in 4.7 hours, one flock having 53 individuals. There was another sizeable movement of 156 on 25 Oct and a combined pulse of 114 on the mornings of 2 and 3 Nov. The last apparent migrants were noted 6 Nov.

The Black-capped Chickadee movement spanned about three weeks, characterized by a sudden onset to peak passage rate. The direction of flight was predominantly toward the southwest. Flocks streamed through the forest at treetop level or through the mid-story, most crossing the road at 3-12 m. Counting was performed without binoculars within 30 m of the crossing location. Wind direction did not seem to play a role in whether migration occurred—in the largest flight morning flocks were pressing forward into a moderately strong southerly headwind.



Figures 2-4. Hourly passages of Northern Flicker, Blue Jay, and Black-capped Chickadee at a Danby, *Tompkins*, NY morning flight site, by count week, 6 Aug-17 Dec 2020.

Nuthatches Both species were regularly present in the woods nearby, but the appearance in mid-August of Red-breasted, and in mid-September of White-breasted, well above the trees in southbound flight left no doubt migration was occurring. White-breasted migration was first noted about a month later than that of Red-breasted and was more prevalent later in the season.

Red-breasted was observed as singles and groups up to three, usually in southbound migration less than 60 m high, but occasionally moving northwesterly. In one instance, three individuals took off together from trees just north of the count site. They circled up quite high, until only visible with binoculars, then headed straight northwest. White-breasted was observed as singles or pairs, often quite high (up to ~60 m), but always in straight southbound migration. Both species were only detected in morning flight in light wind conditions.

American Robin This was the most abundant species and had two distinct seasonal peaks of morning flight activity. There was a small pulse in the latter two weeks of August and a larger more protracted pulse that built during the month of October, peaking in the last week, and then diminished through November.

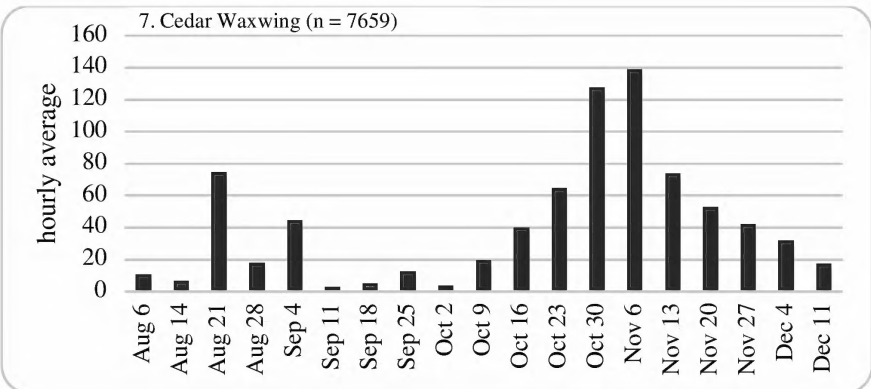
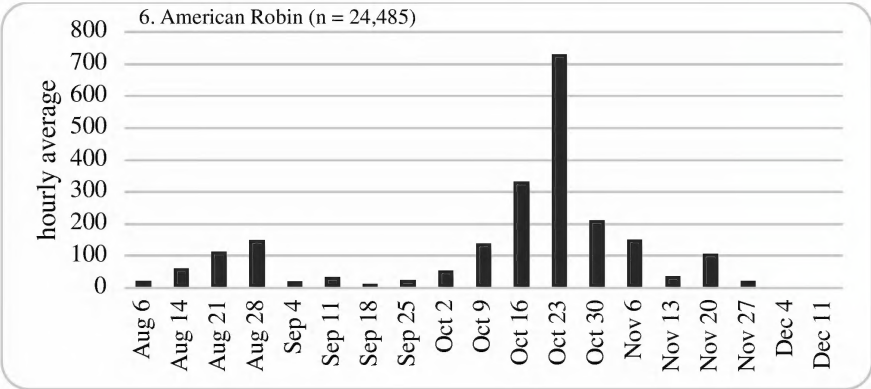
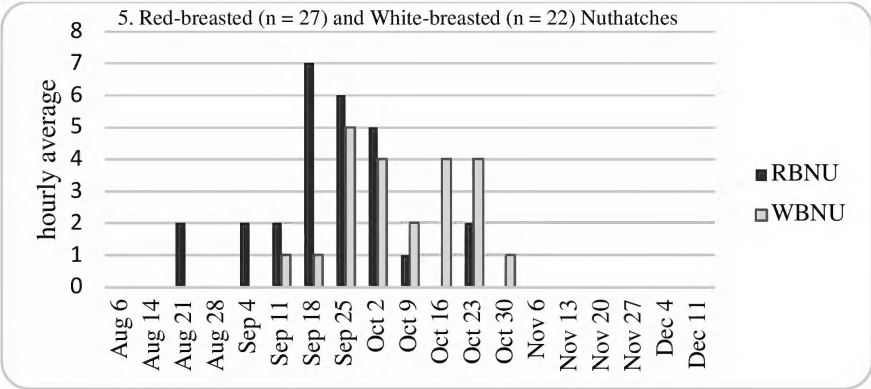
The largest flight documented in the first peak was 260 on 26 Aug. The largest flight documented in the second peak was 2370 on 26 Oct, and 59% of the season's total occurred 16 Oct-1 Nov. The largest flock size of the season was around 300 on multiple occasions, but during the peak flight mornings flocks streamed past closely following one another almost in a continuous stream. Flight direction was predominantly toward the west (± 10 degrees), but there were also substantial flights toward southeast and south.

Robins seemed to move every morning during the peak periods, regardless of wind direction, even with strong westerly headwinds and snow. Altitude was highly variable, but largely below 60 m. In November during northerly winds, large flocks of robins appeared from the north in high (150+ m) southbound flight.

Robins were counted as they passed from left to right over the swale or ridge to the north. They also regularly arrived from due east and flew over the count site heading directly west. Their often-distinctive flight pattern and loose flock association enabled counting out to ~500 m to the north and northwest. During high density flights, counting was made by estimating blocks of 10 or 50 birds.

Cedar Waxwing This species had two peaks in flight activity—a small pulse in the two-week period from 21 Aug–4 Sep and a larger more protracted pulse from 9 Oct to early December. The largest flight documented in the first peak was 210 on 31 Aug. The largest flight documented in the second peak was 545 on 7 Nov. The largest flock size of the season was around 35 on multiple occasions. Flight direction was predominantly toward the west.

Cedar Waxwings seemed to be migrating every morning during the peak flight periods regardless of wind direction, even with strong westerly headwinds and snow. Flight altitude was mostly below 60 m.



Figures 5-7. Hourly passages of Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches, American Robin, and Cedar Waxwing at a Danby, *Tompkins*, NY morning flight site, by count week, 6 Aug-17 Dec 2020.

Waxwings were counted as they passed from left to right over the swale and ridge to the north. They also regularly arrived from due east and flew over the count site heading directly west. Their often-distinctive tight flock formation enabled counting out to ~500 m to the north and northwest, but the constantly shifting individual positions made precise counting difficult. Count totals for mid-to-large flocks were estimated to the nearest five.

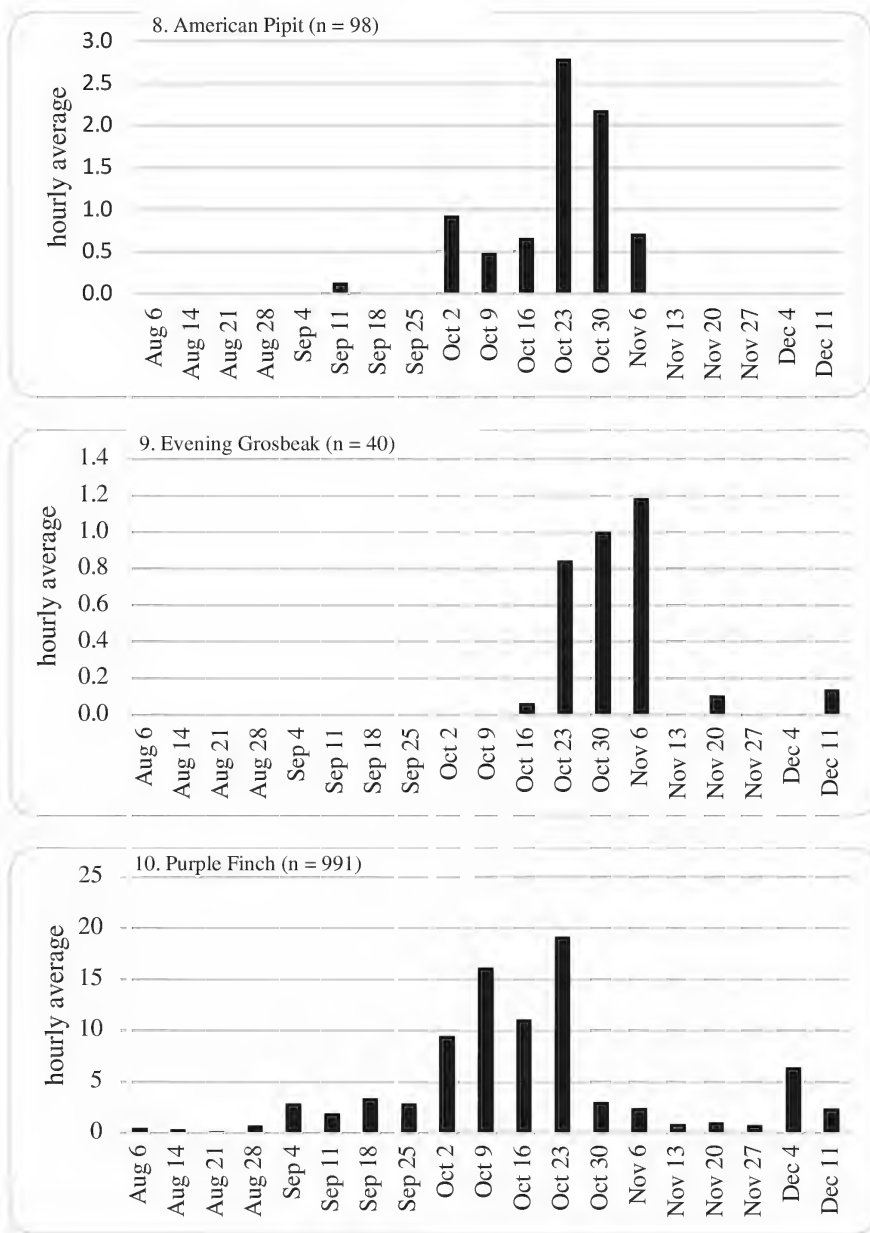
American Pipit Pipits were observed passing regularly in small numbers from October through mid-November, with a peak in the last week of October and first week of November. The highest morning total was 16 on 25 Oct. Their direction of flight was toward the south and altitude of flight at least up to 60 m. In many cases, calls were heard overhead but the birds could not be located. Pipits were not counted unless calls helped confirm ID and numbers. The range of detection was less than 120 m. Many distant birds suspected of being pipits were recorded as passerine sp.

Evening Grosbeak 95% of the season's observations occurred on 12 mornings from 22 Oct through 10 Nov. Most were singles; the largest flock was six. Many singles were heard-only and their direction of flight was variable or undetermined. The most common direction of flight seemed to be toward the west or northwest.

Purple Finch This species breeds in small numbers in the vicinity of the count site, and these are likely the source of occasional flyovers documented throughout August. Morning flight activity was greater in September than August, suggesting migration was underway, and the peak flight of the season occurred throughout October. The species was a relatively scarce flyover during November, but there was a distinct increase of morning flight activity in the first half of December.

During the main flight in October, birds arrived primarily from the northeast, heading southwest. The late flight in December was nearly all moving straight west. The peak flight period was difficult to determine because countability varied a lot with wind direction and sky cover. With tail winds, birds often passed over up to at least 60 m and could be difficult to locate—calls were heard but nothing seen, so only one individual was often logged in cases when there were likely small flocks passing over. Also, cloud cover made for easier counting than blue sky. The peak flight morning, 151 in 2.6 hrs. on 23 Oct, occurred as Purple Finches were flying into a moderately strong southerly headwind with a cloudy background. They were passing relatively low, mostly less than 30 m, and were relatively easy to find in the sky and count. The day prior (22 Oct), 80 were counted in 2.4 hrs. but there was a north wind and mostly clear sky—birds were flying high and difficult to find. The total likely would have been substantially higher on the 22nd if counting conditions had been better. The largest flock size during the season was 14.

Individuals counted in the study were largely detected and identified by call as they passed within 150 m of the count site. Many distant or silent birds were



Figures 8-10. Hourly passages of American Pipit, Evening Grosbeak, and Purple Finch at a Danby, *Tompkins*, NY morning flight site, by count week, 6 Aug-17 Dec 2020.

recorded as finch sp. or passerine sp., but confidence in counting unheard, seen-only Purple Finches passing at a distance increased during the season as familiarity improved with their relatively chunky, short-tailed silhouette and often loosely spaced positions of individuals in flocks.

Common Redpoll The redpoll flight started with a few singles in the first week of November (4 and 7 Nov), then five separate flocks totaling 79 on 8 Nov. 55% (145) of the season's total of 265 occurred over three consecutive mornings from 8-10 Nov. Nearly all flocks arrived from the east and headed straight west. Wandering singles first thing in the morning moved in all directions. The largest flock size of the season was 20 and flight altitude of passing redpolls was below 60 m.

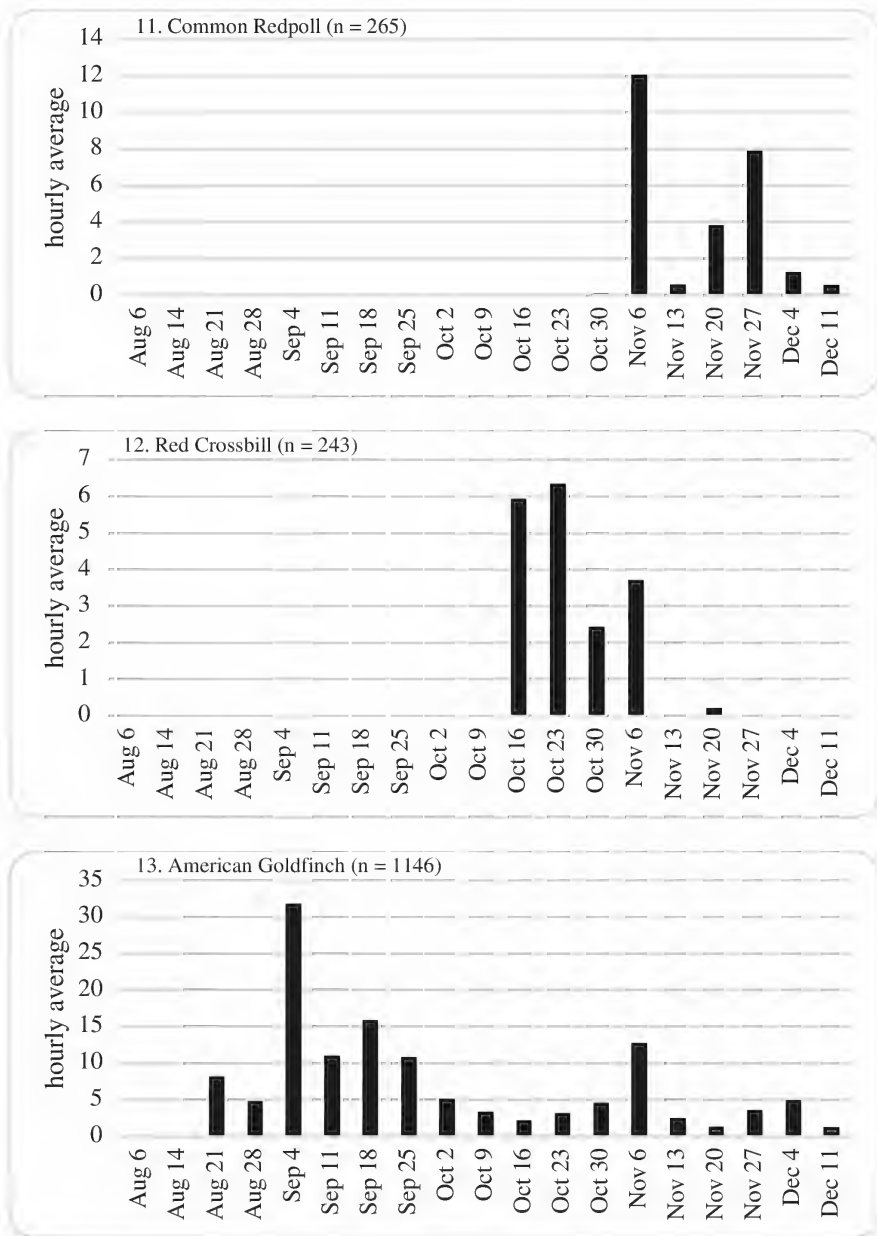
Red Crossbill The Red Crossbill flight began 20 Oct with a flock of 14, then on the 22nd and 23rd eight independent flocks passed over, estimated with 123 individuals in total (largest flock size ~45). During the first two weeks of November passage continued in lower numbers, and after that there were only a few individual flyovers. 87% were headed straight west. Some of the flocks passed over surprisingly high above the count site, the highest at least 60 m. Most of the type-determined birds were the eastern Type-10 population. Several early flocks were of undetermined type. The only southbound flock noted was of 16 birds that sounded like Type-3. A few Type-3 calls were also recorded within a different mixed-type flock and spectrographically verified by Matt Young. Type-2 birds were in the area but were not heard at the count site.

American Goldfinch This species commonly breeds and winters near the count site, and local flight activity can contaminate migration counts. Generally, local goldfinches can be recognized by flight call types and by flock size, behavior, and direction, but there is likely some local clutter in the migration data reported here.

Southbound migration activity took shape in the first week of September and continued through the month. There was a lull in migratory flight activity through October followed by a small peak in the first two weeks of November. The last small flocks of migrants were noted on 6 Dec. The largest flock size of the season was 18. Flight direction was more than 85% straight south and flight altitude appeared to be less than 60 m.

American Goldfinch was the most challenging species to find in the sky over the count site, and the season total is certainly a substantial underestimate. Calls were often heard overhead but no birds seen, defaulting to a minimum estimate of one.

Pine Siskin This species was first detected 21 Sep, and morning flight activity increased steadily to the peak period, 6-12 Oct, when 63% of the season total passed over. The magnitude of the flight diminished rapidly after the peak and



Figures 11-13. Hourly passages of Common Redpoll, Red Crossbill, and American Goldfinch at a Danby, *Tompkins*, NY morning flight site, by count week, 6 Aug-17 Dec 2020.

persisted at a low level through mid-November, with just an occasional single after that. The largest flock size of the season was ~40.

More than 95% of the flocks moved past the count site from west to east less than 50 m high. Wandering singles first thing in the morning moved in all directions.

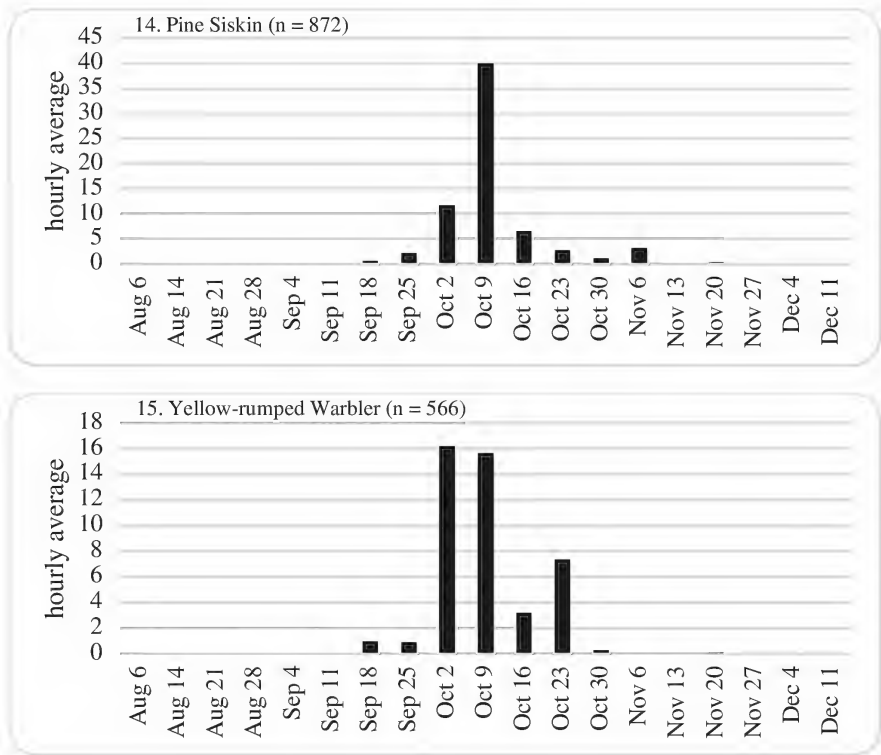
Yellow-rumped Warbler This species was first detected 24 Sep and 32% of the season total passed in three mornings (2-4 Oct). Flight direction was toward the south and flight altitude was largely below 60 m. Yellow-rumpeds were not counted unless calls helped confirm ID of an individual or a flock. The range of detection was less than 120 m and many distant birds suspected of being Yellow-rumpeds ended up classified as passerine sp.

DISCUSSION

The more one counts, the more one understands the flight dynamics of the site, and that in turn affects one's count method: where in the sky and on which species one allocates attention. Initially, my "absorbing concern" was counting Cedar Waxwings and American Robins. When I realized nuthatches were on the wing, my search routine changed a bit—each distant small passerine now needed to be evaluated. When I realized a major boreal finch irruption was underway, that expanded my scope and supercharged my attention. When I noticed a stream of chickadee flocks crossing behind the watch site, I adjusted to listen for flocks approaching from the east. As I heard them approaching, I would step out into the road and look south to count them as they crossed, reducing attention to potential robin and waxwing passage to the north. The chickadee movement now took top priority because of its novelty, yet when a crossbill flock was heard approaching, there was no hesitation in breaking off from counting chickadees. Both were equally high priority, but crossbills were more fleeting, typically passing by in less than 15 seconds; if I wanted to get a number, I had to see the flock.

There were mornings in late October and early November when the attention demands of different components of the flight were overwhelming to the point where precision in counting some species was reduced—the robin and waxwing flight was in peak passage to the north, seven species of finches were arriving from three different directions, nuthatches were trickling by overhead, and chickadees streaming past behind me. All the while I was thinking I must keep watch for early Common Loons passing overhead or to either side.

Bird counts are potential protein for conservation efforts. In this regard, one strives in counting to be a robot, minimizing variables that might affect accuracy and consistency. If I am fortunate enough to be able to count another fall, I will bring a more evolved counting protocol gained from this year's sojourn. It would be an improved count, so this would need to be considered when comparing the numbers with this year. But the relative species composition, migration peaks, and direction of flight should stand up well for future comparison.



Figures 14-15. Hourly passages of Pine Siskin and Yellow-rumped Warbler at a Danby, *Tompkins*, NY morning flight site, by count week, 6 Aug-17 Dec 2020.

There are more than 1000 morning flight count sites in Europe while perhaps only a few dozen in North America, several of which are conducted on the ocean coast of Long Island (S. Mitra, pers. comm.). But morning flight occurs everywhere in New York State. If you can view of the landscape from a site close to your home and can carve out an hour first thing in the morning during any portion of the migration periods, you can tune in to the flow and start laying a record for intra- and inter-station comparison. Indeed, there is elegance and economy in morning flight data; it is a powerful independent index for certain bird populations, and even short surveys can sample a relatively large number of birds. Of course, there is also an intangible element that may lead one to watch or count morning flight... for pure wonder and enjoyment, and accordingly for tapping into the marvelous ether of our ancient relationship with birds and their migrations.

As I conclude this report it is mid-January. Morning flight has diminished at my count site except for occasional southward pulses of Canada and Snow Geese, and an ongoing enigmatic westward flow of small flocks of Cedar Waxwings and Purple Finches.

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

An Exceptional Finch Flight on Long Island's North Fork

We all observed that this fall's migration was a good one for Pine Siskin, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, etc. However, 8 November, 2020 in my yard in Northville (in the eastern section of Riverhead along Long Island Sound) was quite unprecedented. By 7:00 a.m. my husband and I noticed that the yard, front and back, was full of Pine Siskins and American Goldfinches, all freely mixing together. These actively feeding birds were on stalks of showy goldenrod and rough goldenrod, and New England asters, as well as all over the grassy ground and in every feeder on the property. By the best guess and fairly accurate counting we concluded we had about 500 birds in tight concentrations. This immense, hungry flock must have come in over Long Island Sound on the calm, clear night that just passed as we did not have anything like this the day before. Did they all fly together overnight from Canada and New England?

Obviously, finding agreeable food and favorable conditions abounding, they stayed in force through the day. These birds were so thick on the ground we had to shoo them away from the feeder areas so as not to step on them. They drained the feeders several times, as well as feasting on seed on the ground. They had no fear of us or our dog and unfortunately the dog stepped on one siskin which did not move out of the way. We assumed most of these birds had never seen people before; you could walk right up to them and pet some of them as they were feeding. Of course, I partook of the privilege of doing so several times, as I couldn't help myself! These birds started to leave the yard area by about 4:00 p.m. The next day none were in the yard; apparently they had moved on overnight again. I consider this a very exciting event, which we were fortunate to observe, witness and document with photographs (see photo, p. 52)—and one we will probably never see again, at least not in numbers like these!

MaryLaura Lamont, Northville, NY

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PATCH BIRDING SOUTH SHORE ROOTS

Bob Grover
West Islip, NY

I was inspired to write this by my friend Bobby Berlingeri, who wrote about his experiences growing up in Lido Beach (*The Kingbird*, 70:1), and how they inspired his love of birds and nature. This essay is mostly based on the eulogy I delivered at my Dad's funeral a decade ago. I delivered that talk with no notes—just from the heart—so regrettably, I have no record to rely on. Maybe this article will help me to recreate that talk.

When I was a child, my family would spend weekends at Cedar Beach, in southwest Suffolk County. The Captree Bridge connecting the mainland to Captree Island and then to Ocean Parkway by way of the drawbridge, had not yet been constructed, so we had to go all the way from Babylon to Wantagh, and south over those bridges, through Jones

Beach, and east to Cedar. My father was an ocean lifeguard and avid surfer, so we would spend long summer days there sitting on the beach and playing in the surf. One day, when I was only about five, I decided to expand my horizons and explore. I wandered west a few hundred feet and was suddenly attacked. Little did I know at the time, nor was I capable of understanding, that I had wandered into the famous (though not yet at the time) Cedar Beach Tern Colony. I was freaking out and crying hysterically when my Dad, who had been watching, scooped me up in his arms and carefully walked me out of the colony. I recall asking him, "What are these birds and why are they so mean?". He replied that they were terns, and that they were not mean. He explained that they were defending their nests and that they were beautiful seabirds to be appreciated. From that moment on, I was fascinated by wildlife and nature.

A couple of years later, the town opened Overlook Beach, to the east of Cedar. In addition, the state opened the Captree Bridge, taking about a half hour off our trip to the beach. My Dad wanted to try out the surf there so that was our destination on one beautiful, clear summer day. By then, I had begun to acquire some rudimentary knowledge of geography. As we sat on our beach blanket, I looked across the ocean, but I saw land not too far away. I was astounded. "Is that Europe?", I asked. My dad explained that it was the end of Fire Island, and how that island had grown five miles from a former position all the way east by the barely visible lighthouse, due to the movement of sand and surf. And now, from that moment on, I was also fascinated by coastal geology. Slowly but surely, my educational and vocational pursuits were being forged. Before long, I was reading Charles Darwin, Marston Bates, and others, which just jazzed me up further.

As time went on, my Dad's interests started to shift from surfing to sailing, and this opened an entire new aspect to my pursuit of natural history. More on that shortly. The transition to sailing was gradual, and we kept up a tradition, on Sunday mornings after church in late winter and early spring, of going over to Captree State Park to walk down the dock and enjoy an ice cream cone. On one memorable Sunday, we were driving back home, going north across Captree Island, when my Dad calls out, "Look at the Snowy Owl, it looks just like the cigar box!". The owl was flying north, paralleling us, so we got great looks. I was mesmerized, and my Dad talked about it for days.

When I was a young teen, my Dad bought me a surfboard, not like the wooden boards he used to build, but a modern fiberglass board, which hangs proudly in our den today. A couple of years later he bought me a 16-foot Lyman skiff with an outboard. Very quickly that boat taught me the meaning of the term "chick magnet", but I digress. I used to load my surfboard onto the skiff and shoot across the bay to Cedar Beach to surf. Full circle. That trip brought me across the eelgrass beds in the shallows off Lindenhurst, which were locally called The Flats. I got into the habit of slowing down and staring into the clear bay waters at the abundant marine life. Before too long I was purchasing a mask, snorkel, and fins to keep on the boat. Instead of staring, I would anchor and dive down into this amazing ecosystem, collecting all manner of invertebrates to bring home and identify. This also gave me time to just sit and study the diving behavior of my once-feared terns and gain insight into their natural history.

My boat opened other avenues of nature exploration, as well. I could anchor and wade in to various bay islands, some manmade dredge spoil islands and some natural flood tide deposits from former tidal inlets, of which I learned there were many before they were all filled in to construct Ocean Parkway. I still have a collection of old maps and nautical charts depicting the location and configuration of those inlets. Exploring those islands taught me lessons like there are no such things as "sea gulls", but rather more specific names of individual species, and that the immature plumages of these birds was not dirt!

The south shore of Long Island provides myriad opportunities to learn about the natural world, and my wife Michelle and I made a point of keeping that tradition and lore alive in our two sons, both now fathers and educators. My quest to learn about nature continues to this day, but it is all because of the foundation constructed for me by my father.

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FIFTY YEARS AGO IN

The **KINGBIRD**

Bar-tailed Godwit at Moriches, L.I. While accompanying a Vermont friend, Mrs. John McCormick, on an annual shore-birding trip, Mrs. Crispin Cooke and I were birding on an island straddling Moriches Inlet, Suffolk Co., commonly known as Bird Island, on Mon., May 10th, 1971. As we approached the extensive mudflats on the west end in squally rain and wind, we spotted an unusual Godwit feeding near Black-bellied Plovers. About 4" longer in body than they and 2" taller, it was rather a slender bird and not big enough to be a Marbled. It had a rusty chestnut neck and breast, light brown reticulated back, and its rump showed a white arrow up the back above a tail narrowly barred crossways with grey-brown (much like the Dowitcher pattern and not at all like a Hudsonian.) This we saw easily when the bird stretched a wing and tail at close range. Its legs were blue-grey and its face light tan with no eye-line and a bland expression. The bill was long, upturned, and two-toned, pinkish at the base and dark grey at the tip. It fed often in an upward shovelling manner that I have noticed in Marbled Godwits. Though not as brightly colored as the illustration in Peterson's *Birds of Britain and Europe*, (rainy day perhaps?) it was easily identifiable as a Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*) in spring plumage. Interestingly enough, though there are five recorded sightings in the northeastern U.S., two in Mass. in 1907 and 1937, two in southern N.J., the last one (though a Nov. bird) was in 1946 in the very same area! (John Bull, *Birds of the New York Area*)

Mrs. Joseph B. Conolly Jr., 68 Wheatley Road, Glen Head, L.I., N.Y. 11545

Ed Note—This godwit was seen again at Bird Island on May 12 by Dennis Puleston. His comments confirm the details given above by Mrs. Conolly. Also, a Bar-tailed Godwit was present at Port Canaveral, Florida from October to at least late February. A Black-tailed Godwit was present at the Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge from June into August. In early August all four of the world's godwits—Marbled, Bar-tailed, Hudsonian and Black-tailed—were observed at that Refuge.

This note originally appeared in Volume XXI, No. 3, July 1971, on pages 142-143.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

As noted here a year ago in Volume 70, Number 1, page 13, the initial issues of each volume now serve basic record-keeping duties for the journal: the corrigenda from the previous volume (and older volumes, if other mistakes come to light—but see below) are explained here, so that errors are accessible and interpretable, in case they propagate into other publications or media. Similarly, for the convenience of readers browsing hard copy of the Regional Reports for species of interest, the species sequence is specified here (unchanged from Volumes 69 and 70).

“Fifty Years Ago in *The Kingbird*,” a feature resumed a year ago, continues in the present issue, as does the Patch Birding column, offering views into the habits, values, and mores of our community. Barbara Conolly’s note, reprinted above, holds great interest at many levels. Several simple errors, involving spelling, capitalization of group names, commas, periods, and parentheses, are reproduced here exactly (Pat and I quadruple-proofed them), and these artifacts of the pre-digital era will not, at least under my Editorship, be altered in the online archive. They convey fascinating information about how *The Kingbird* was produced. Far from being a demerit to Editor Joseph W. Taylor, these glitches illustrate the remarkable diligence and skill that allowed this note to be delivered just two months after the observation in question, in an age when almost all the correspondence was achieved via the United States Postal Service. Another level of significance resides in the archaic attitudes toward gender preserved here. These are not errors but rather issues engaging the attention of well-meaning people, then and now. In fact, some related issues were detected at the eleventh hour in the present issue and remedied just in time! Finally, I can’t resist reflecting on this note’s effects on me personally, heightening my urge to write a Patch Birding essay of my own about the Moriches Inlet flats. In this regard, I offer one corrigendum and one addendum to Barbara’s note—not in the formal forum below, but directly in my role as Editor. It is my judgement that the last sentence, retaining the style of the day, should read, “Interestingly enough, though, there are five prior recorded sightings in the northeastern U.S.: two in Mass. in 1907 and 1937, two in southern N.J., and the most recent one (and first for New York, though a Nov. bird) was in 1946, in the very same area as the present record!” To which might be added, in the spirit of Joe Taylor’s delight in the confluence of four species of godwits at one place and one time, my own, almost religious, excitement in noting the predilection of this one rare godwit species for this one special site across the decades, as New York’s third record of Bar-tailed Godwit was also recorded at Moriches Inlet, 17-18 Aug 1974 (*The Kingbird* 25: 27-28).

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CORRIGENDA

Please make note of the following corrections to errors in *The Kingbird*. Some editorial errors will be corrected in the digital archive, accessible at nybirds.org, and are indicated here by underline.

KB 66.1 March 2016

p. 14 A reference in the third paragraph, third line should read “(Figure 1, p. 45)”

p. 15 Figure references in the first and second paragraphs should read “(Figure 2, p. 46)” and “(Figure 3, p. 46)” respectively.

KB 68.1 March 2018

p. 5 Second line should read “between January and June arises from the specimen from Cumberland County, NJ in”

KB 68.2 June 2018

p. 136 The figure should be labeled “Figure 7”

KB 70.1 March 2020

p. 1 The title reading “Editor’s Note” should read “Editor’s Note and Corrigenda”

KB 70.3 September 2020

p. 211 In the Swainson’s Warbler entry, an observer’s name is misspelled; the correct spelling is “Deutsch” not “Deutsch”

p. 256 The caption should read “Blue-winged X Green-winged Teal...”

p. 284 In the fourth paragraph, fourth line, an incorrect number of species was reported. A correction was printed in KB 70.4 on p. 380.

KB 70.4 December 2020

p. 325 In the second paragraph, the last line should read “also a strong supporter of the New York State Young Birders Club.”

p. 364 The captions for photos C and D were reversed. The caption should read: “Photos clockwise from top left. A: The pair on 3 May; B: A mate chase on 9 Jun; C: Panting on the nest on 22 Jun; D: Mating on 19 Jun.”

p. 381 In the Abbreviations section, the initial letter was omitted in “Point au Roche”

p. 408 The entry for Savannah Sparrow is incomplete. An addendum is included in the Region 10 report in the present issue, KB 71.1, p. 98.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON–FALL 2020

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Fall of 2020 was characterized by roughly average temps in September and October, with September being just slightly warmer and drier than normal, and October being slightly warmer and wetter than normal. November temperatures, however, remained well above average across the state, with precipitation levels just below expected levels. Except for a few periods following heavy rains, mainly in October, shorelines were exposed, providing better than average shorebirding opportunities while limiting numbers of non-grazing waterfowl.

Several Regional editors declared the fall 2020 season as one of the most interesting migration periods they’ve seen in many years. Overall, good numbers of migrants were found. These good overall numbers were accompanied by some fantastic rarities. After several years of selecting from a few, widely scattered rare birds to highlight, this season

there were really too many to mention. If there was ever a time to read every Regional report, this was the season to do so. You'll find comments like "this was an excellent season for birding. Each month saw the species count close to record high..." from Robert Spahn in Region 2, and from David Wheeler in Region 5, "Fall 2020 was an absolutely epic season for rarities, scarce passage migrants, shorebirds, and winter finches, finishing 30 species above the recent 10 year average...". William Kuk in Region 4 attributed increases in numbers of observations to "more birding due to the pandemic, the breeding bird atlas, and to the growth of eBird."

Several species which have been trending upwards in recent years continued to do so. American White Pelicans were reported from six Regions, Trumpeter Swans from six, Black-bellied Whistling Ducks from Region 3, with multiples at three locations, and a Brown Booby from Region 9 and two from Region 10. Sandhill Cranes were found in eight Regions, with high counts of 150 in the Region 2 section of Montezuma NWR and 187 in the Region 3 section. Cackling Geese were reported from nine Regions while Pink-footed was reported from two, including a second Regional record for Region 5. A family group of Barnacle X Cackling Goose hybrids made an appearance in Orange County in Region 9 after having been detected in Massachusetts and Connecticut earlier in the fall. Cave Swallows were recorded from four Regions, including multiples in Region 10.

Several species that have been trending downward continued to do so. American Golden-Plover is one, and although it was reported in small numbers from all ten Regions, the double- and triple-digit flocks of Long Island have been missing for some years now. Single Upland Sandpipers were reported from just three Regions. Brendan Fogarty in Region 10 noted "few records of larger species like godwits and avocets, and all the sod farm shorebirds were once again in single-digit flocks." A single record of two Spruce Grouse in Region 6 and one other eBird entry from Region 7 were the only reports of this sensitive species. Two additional species, both of them found in reduced numbers, but maybe not actually in trouble, are Red-tailed Hawk and Snow Goose. The latter has been mentioned in recent seasons as having bypassed traditional sites, and again in fall 2020, Jeff Bolsinger mentioned that they "largely missed Region 6." Next door in Region 7, a max count of 10,000 probably indicates that there is just some location-shifting going on. Overall, they seem to be doing well. More puzzling are the comments from Region 4 about Red-tails. This season, Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch saw a 60% falloff from the average count. See that account for details on similar drops at other major northeast hawk watches. Again, Red-tailed Hawk as a species seems to be plentiful, but is there a problem with the populations that migrate through our area?

Back on the positive side, there seemed to be a coordination of incursions of species that we normally think of as irruptive. Snowy Owls seemed to be preparing for a decent winter showing, with all but one Region reporting them. Birds began showing up in the first few days of November. Rough-legged Hawks were reported from all 10 Regions, not always in great numbers, but still a pretty widespread distribution.

Of course, there's one group of birds that immediately comes to mind when we think of irruptives—namely, winter finches. After a few winters of good flights of Evening Grosbeaks and crossbills, this fall it seemed that all the players got on the same page. Following closely on the heels of early precursor flights of Red-breasted Nuthatch and Black-capped Chickadees, huge numbers of Pine Siskins flooded through the state often accompanied by good counts of Purple Finches. Most of the other winter finches followed, led by Common Redpoll and Red Crossbill. Also recorded, but in numbers closer to normal, were Pine Grosbeak, White-winged Crossbill and Hoary Redpoll. The Region 1 report mentions that this was often considered "the best irruptive finch flight in decades."

The editors there give a summary of Red Crossbill call types identified in the area. To give some idea of the extent of this flight, all Regions reported Evening Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, and Common Redpoll, nine reported White-winged Crossbill, and seven reported Pine Grosbeak and Hoary Redpoll! In his Region 10 report, Brendan Fogarty gives a nice summary of continent-wide events that may have some connection to our experiences in New York.

As mentioned up top, Regional editors lauded the fall 2020 season, sometimes for quantity, sometimes for quality, and sometimes both. Good waterfowl records included King Eider, with max counts of 11 in Region 2 and six in Region 5. One in Region 4 provided a rare inland record. A juvenile Harlequin Duck in Region 5 was surprisingly early on 11 September. Is it safe to assume it belongs to the eastern Canada breeding population?

Good shorebird habitat in several Regions yielded many nice records. A Western Sandpiper at the Allegheny Reservoir was a great find in Region 1. A Purple Sandpiper in Region 7 was the seventh record since 1950 and a Hudsonian Godwit at Dorchester Park provided a first Regional eBird record for Region 4. The extensive Region 5 account of the shorebirding season is worth a read.

While we're hanging out at the waterfront, this is probably a good place to mention that Region 1 had its third record of **Purple Gallinule**—a bird photographed at an elementary school! Sabine's Gulls were found in three Regions, a **Magnificent Frigatebird** was seen flying into Lake Ontario in Region 5, and a **Neotropical Cormorant** in Region 1 was the third record there.

Two **Swainson's Hawks** in Region 10 were exceptional, as was a **Mississippi Kite** in Region 1. At Franklin Mountain, Bald Eagles hit an all-time high of 248, while Golden Eagles were slightly better than average. As always, it's worth going back and reading through each of the hawk watch reports, where hard data is available to make seasonal comparisons.

Many Regions recorded late passerines, probably encouraged to linger by mild November temperatures. These are widely scattered through the Regional reports. A couple of species seemed to have many more mentions than we normally see. Eight Regions reported Nelson's Sparrows—are we just getting better at figuring that bird out? Also recorded from eight Regions was Connecticut Warbler, with reports from at least 40 locations in Region 10 alone. Additionally, as mentioned several times, there were many records of exceptional Regional rarities, such as a single Boreal Chickadee seen and audio recorded in Warren County in Region 8 providing the first Regional record in ten years, and quite a few statewide rare birds. For more details of both, it's really worth going through the Regional reports, but I'll try to mention a handful of birds not listed previously that could easily be Bird of the Season most years.

For starters, a **Sage Thrasher** in Columbia County in Region 8, a **Say's Phoebe** in Region 4, or a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** in Region 10 would all be BOTS contenders. Also in Region 10, an empid identified by recorded calls as **Pacific-slope Flycatcher** is at least as rare (if not quite as dramatic) as the **Painted Redstart** seen by many observers in Brooklyn. However, this time around, I think I would have to give the nod to Region 9, where a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** not only was **not** the best bird, it wasn't even the best flycatcher. I'd give BOTS this time around to the **Tropical Kingbird** found at Dobb's Ferry, a long overdue first state record, a great bird that had the decency to hang around for a second day, to be enjoyed by many.

REGIONAL REPORTS—FALL 2020

Much of the data in these Regional reports was sourced from eBird:
eBird Basic Dataset. Version: EBD_relNov-2020. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. Nov 2020.

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REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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The warm and dry conditions continued from summer in September 2020. The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 64.4° F, 2.2° above normal, with 3.40" of precipitation, 0.50" below average. September had the greatest average wind speed in ten years including strong winds on the 7th with a cold front. October had many damp days and two strong cold fronts on the 7th and 23rd, the latter with record breaking warmth ahead of it. The mean temperature was 51.8°, 1.0° above average. Precipitation was 3.60", 0.08" above average, plus a trace of snow. November was warm and mild. The mean temperature was 46.5°, 5.8° above normal and the sixth warmest November on record. Rainfall was 2.81", 1.20" below normal and there was only 0.8" of snow, 7.1" below average.

In a fall season with many highlights, the irruptive finch flight drew the most collective excitement among the Region's birders. In terms of the species involved and overall numbers, veteran birders considered it the best irruptive finch flight in decades. A makeshift "finch watch" was established at Krull County Park, as open fields with great sightlines adjacent to a large conifer plantation near the Lake Ontario shoreline provided an excellent viewing location for flyover finches that sometimes dropped in for foraging. Birders amassed by the dozens and many newer birders picked up multiple lifers. Red Crossbills were the most notable of the species as it was the largest irruption in 50+ years, including multiple counts around 100 from Krull CP in early November. Most call recordings were identified to Type 10 ("Sitka Spruce"), while Mike Morgante recorded one or more Type 4s ("Douglas Fir") within a group of Type 10s at Krull CP, and Tim Lenz recorded Type 2s ("Ponderosa Pine") at Lake Erie SP. White-winged Crossbills appeared in lower numbers and with less frequency than the Reds, and the maximum count of 28 at Krull CP was in a mixed crossbill foraging flock. Evening Grosbeaks first appeared in mid-October and were reported from 26 locations by the end of the month; maximum counts of 45 were made at Krull CP and Lake Erie SP in early November. Lone Pine Grosbeaks were identified by Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter at Krull CP on two dates in November, but this species did not otherwise join the finch irruption Regionally. There were some good flight days for Common Redpolls with a maximum count of 303 at Krull CP on 13 November. Three Hoary Redpolls were documented in November. Pine Siskins

were part of the irruption but in modest numbers. American Goldfinches were moving as well, with a count of 318 at Krull CP on the morning of 6 November. Other than some redpolls, it did not appear that the irruptive finches stuck around the Region.

The Region enjoyed several highlights during the fall waterfowl migration including two sightings of Ross's Goose. An individual found by Joel Strong in Somerset accommodated local birders for five days on 12-16 October, while a second individual was found by John Hayward in Amity on 16 November. This species has become near annual in the fall for the Region. There were several reports of Snow Goose throughout the Region, including an early sighting on 14 September at Iroquois NWR. A Snow x Ross's Goose hybrid was found by Celeste Morien on 23 October at INWR and documented well with photographs. There were several Cackling Goose reports, all from interior locations. Brant were reported from both Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, represented by just four sightings for the season. Rounding out the goose highlights were three Greater White-fronted Geese reported at INWR from 18 October to 1 November and another in Wilson on 18 November. This is another species whose frequency appears to be increasing in the Region.

Tundra Swans arrived on 28 October, increasing to a seasonal high count of 125 by 26 November at Beaver Island SP. Both adult and juvenile Trumpeter Swans were reported from INWR throughout the fall season with a high of 12 individuals on 10 October. Handfuls of all three scoter species were reported from both Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. Surf Scoter reports from Dayton Gravel Ponds and Batavia WWTP represent notable inland reports. Joe Fell discovered four King Eiders along the Niagara River in Buffalo. These long-staying birds remained from 8-30 November, allowing many the opportunity to observe this Regional rarity. Wrapping up the waterfowl highlights were two male Harlequin Ducks, both from the Niagara River. The first was reported at its "usual spot" off Three Sisters Islands at Niagara Falls SP on 8 November and another from Buffalo on 21 and 27 November.

A **Purple Gallinule** was photographed next to an elementary school in Franklinville by Levi O'Brien on 23 October. This shocker of a sighting represents the Region's third record.

Shorebird numbers were not especially high within the Region, but there were several notable reports. Josh Ketry found and photographed Cattaraugus County's third record of **Western Sandpiper** at the recently drawn down Allegheny Reservoir. This location also produced the Region's only fall reports of Stilt Sandpiper. Several sightings of up to four Red-necked Phalaropes were reported from the Buffalo portion of the Niagara River in September and October. These sightings coincided with strong southwest winds and rain events, which tend to funnel this species to the extreme northeast end of Lake Erie and into the Niagara River, where savvy birders await. Celeste Morien found the season's only Regionally rare Red Phalarope on 2 October at BWTP. The only Buff-breasted Sandpiper was found by Josh Ketry at Buffalo Harbor on 7 September. Two Red Knots were reported this season, both from Lake Erie on 5 and 16 September. Two sightings of American Avocets were reported in the fall, also from Lake Erie; a group of three at Buffalo Harbor on 29 September found by Kevin Rybczynski and two from Dunkirk Harbor on 16 October found by Gale VerHague. Tom Kerr reported the only fall Upland Sandpiper when he detected its nocturnal flight call in West Seneca on 6 September. There were three reports of Baird's Sandpiper within the Region, all from interior locations.

Up to three Parasitic Jaegers and two rare **Long-tailed Jaegers** were reported from the Niagara River at Buffalo during the same, strong southwest wind and rain events that produced Red-necked Phalaropes as described above. Knowing the funneling effect these weather patterns have on jaegers in Lake Erie, local birders gathered at the strategically

located West Side Rowing Club in anticipation of the wind-blown birds. Their efforts paid off with close looks at both species of jaeger. Lake Ontario also produced three reports of Parasitic Jaegers from various shoreline locations in Niagara County.

Gulls did not disappoint area birders during the fall season. Regional highlights included a very accommodating and close Sabine's Gull found by Bruce Hoover at the Union Ship Canal, which delighted area birders from 27-30 November. Three Laughing Gulls were sighted within the Region; two from Lake Erie/Niagara River locations and another from Batavia WWTP. A **Mew Gull** was found by Jamie Spence from the Canadian side of Niagara Falls, but flew on both sides of the boundary. Based on photographs, this bird is believed to be of the Eurasian subspecies *canus* or *heinei*. Other gull highlights included the arrival of the much anticipated "white-wingers", Iceland and Glaucous Gulls, as well as a seasonal high count of five Little Gulls. A high count of 15 Lesser Black-backed Gulls from Cuba Lake is notable, but even more so due to its inland location. On the tern front, a seasonal high count of 10 Black Terns was reported from the Niagara River at Buffalo and the only Forster's Tern report was from Iroquois NWR on 14 October.

On 17 October, Karen Lee Lewis noticed a hummingbird utilizing her *Salvia* and *Cuphea* plants in her East Amherst yard which showed rusty coloration on its flanks, consistent with a *Selasphorus* hummingbird. Thanks to photos from her and Kevin Rybczynski, it was determined this was an adult, female **Rufous Hummingbird**, ending a 15-year dry spell for this species in Erie County. This long-staying hummingbird remained until 1 November, giving several birders the opportunity to enjoy this rare visitor from the west. A second Erie County *Selasphorus* hummingbird was found by Jim and Karen Landau in their Colden yard on 23 October. This young male continued until 5 November; however, despite numerous birders and photographs, no clear open-tail shot was captured, which is necessary to differentiate Allen's and Rufous Hummingbirds. Thus, this individual had to be left as **Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird**.

Kyle Gage identified a **Neotropic Cormorant** at Batavia WWTP on 5 September and many birders showed up to see this rarity during its weeklong stay. An American White Pelican continued from the summer, and possibly the same bird from the spring, at Oak Orchard WMA through 10 October. A Cattle Egret was found on the Lake Erie shoreline at Dunkirk on 16 October and then was joined by another later in the day. A Cattle Egret at Iroquois NWR was more cooperative, seen often at Kumpf Marsh between 25 October and 10 November.

Black Vultures continued around Lewiston with a maximum of six reported this season. Joe Fell reported a Golden Eagle over Buffalo on 25 October. Josh Ketry documented a briefly observed **Mississippi Kite** over Beaver Island SP on 12 September, the fifth for the Region and second this year.

SUNY Fredonia students Devin Banning and Katelyn Davis found a **Barn Owl** on campus that was observed frequenting a small meadow and visible in the glow of nearby parking lot lighting, as well as on occasional flights elsewhere. Some observers felt two birds were present, raising the possibility of breeding activity since Barn Owls have been known to nest throughout the year. While likely under detected due to their nocturnal nature, this species has rarely been documented in the Region this century. A Snowy Owl arrived in Buffalo Harbor in November and they were not reported from other locations. Short-eared Owls were reported from multiple locations, including up to 12 in Conewango that marked the highest Regional numbers in some time. Indefatigable David Junkin banded 45 Northern Saw-whet Owls this fall on his Wethersfield property, while there were reports from three other locations.

There were a few more Olive-sided Flycatcher and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher reports this season than usual, and a Least Flycatcher photographed in Sheridan was on the late side on 6 October. Multiple White-eyed Vireos were found this fall, again! This species continues to occur more often in the fall season than the spring season lately; reverse migration seems the most likely reason for the fall sightings. Sightings were made 14 October at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo and 8 and 10 November at Amherst SP. There were some slightly late reports for Yellow-throated Vireo and Warbling Vireo.

The night roost of Purple Martins at Grass Island in the Niagara River at Beaver Island SP included an estimate of 15,000 martins descending at dusk on 1 September. A **Cave Swallow** was sighted by several observers and photographed by Brad Carlson at Krull CP as it flew west early in the morning of 8 November. Cedar Waxwings were counted in good numbers at the Krull CP “finch watch” in early November. Red-breasted Nuthatches continued their increased numbers from the irruption that started in August.

Fall season sparrow highlights included multiple Nelson’s Sparrow reports. Joe Mitchell found two at Conewango Swamp WMA on 4 October and Bruce Robinson and Josh Ketry had one there on 14 October, along with a late Bobolink. Sue Barth had a Nelson’s Sparrow at the recently restored East River Marsh at Beaver Island SP on 13 October. Two Clay-colored Sparrows were found at Artpark SP where the species was present in spring and summer. An adult male Baltimore Oriole was photographed at Amherst SP over several dates in late October and mid-November.

The trend of increasing numbers of late warbler sightings continued this year. November sightings were made for Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Northern Parula, Magnolia Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, and Blackburnian Warbler; see details in the records compilation. The first fall Regional record of Prothonotary Warbler was made by Melanie Streeter when she photographed an apparent adult male from the Wag Trail just south of Wellsville on 18 October. Three Connecticut Warbler sightings in September were also notable. Other late passerine sightings included Scarlet Tanager on 24 October and Indigo Bunting on 25 October.

The 85th BOS October Count was held on 10 October on a warm and windy day. Marcie Jacklin was the compiler of this count that includes both Region 1 and an adjacent area in Ontario. A total of 196 birders contributed to recording 163 species and 103,856 birds. Record high counts were tallied for Gadwall (221), Double-crested Cormorant (7,597), American White Pelican (1), Cooper’s Hawk (38), Merlin (12), Baltimore Oriole (1), and Northern Parula (4). There were no record low counts. Among the high counts, it is notable that this was the second year in a row for a high count for Cooper’s Hawk. Merlin and Gadwall both appear to be increasing in fall in recent years as well. I also suspect that the record high cormorant count included some double counting of birds on the Buffalo waterfront.

CONTRIBUTORS

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Karen Lee Lewis, Dave McCreery, Joe Mitchell, Mike Morgante, Celeste Morien, TJ Mudd, Matt Nusstein, Levi O'Brien, Ben Oldfield, Sakura Paterniti, Joshua Pollock, Betsy Potter, Jeffrey Reed, Bruce Robinson, Jajean Rose-Burney, Marcus Rosten, Vicki Rothman, Kevin Rybczynski, Richard Salembier (RSa), James Sawusch (JSa), Nate Schamel, Shelley Seidman, Ryder Shelley (RSh), Lynn & Wade Sigurdson, Jeff Skevington (JSk), Jamie Spence (JSp), R Stineman (RSt), Melanie Streeter, Joel Strong (JSt), Holly Sweeney, Rick Thomas, Kirk Vanstrom, Conner Vara, Gale VerHague, Mike Wasilco, Peter Yoerg.

ABBREVIATIONS

ACNC – Audubon Community Nature Center, Jamestown, CHAU; **AmSP** – Amherst SP, ERIE; **BeSP** – Beaver I SP, ERIE; **BMAC** – Beaver Meadow Audubon Center, WYOM; **BOSOC** – Buffalo Ornithological Society 10 Oct Count; **BuFH** – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; **BuSP** – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; **BWWTP** – Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, GENE; **ChauL** – Chautauqua L, CHAU; **CSWMA** – Conewango Swamp WMA, CATT; **DH** – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; **EvSP** – Evangola SP, ERIE; **FLC** – Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, ERIE; **FNSP** – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; **GHSP** – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; **HBWMA** – Hanging Bog WMA, ALLE; **INWR** – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; **Krull CP** – Krull CP, NIAG; **LBSP** – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; **NF** – Niagara Falls, NIAG; **NFSP** – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; **NPP** – Niagara Power Project on Niagara R, NIAG; **NR** – Niagara R; **OOWMA** – Oak Orchard WMA, GENE/ORLE; **PB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **RWNP** – Reinstein Woods Nature Pres, ERIE; **TBNP** – Times Beach Nature Pres, Buffalo, ERIE; **Tift NP** – Tift Nature Pres, ERIE; **TWMA** – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; **WoBSP** – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; **WTSP** – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: arr INWR 14 Sep (BC), early; Somerset NIAG 29 Sep, 10-13 Oct (JSt); Dayton CATT 14 Oct; 14 Sturgeon Pt ERIE 25 Oct (SB); BMAC 28 Oct; max 30 Caneadea ALLE 7 Nov (AB); six other Nov records 1-2 each.

Ross's Goose: Somerset NIAG 12-16 Oct (JSt ph!); Amity ALLE 16 Nov (JH); has become near annual in fall.

Snow x Ross's Goose: INWR 23 Oct (CM, KG), identified as hybrid through photo review.

Greater White-fronted Goose: arr 3 INWR 18 Oct - 1 Nov (CM); Wilson NIAG 18 Nov (NS).

Brant: arr Porter NIAG 25 Oct; max 18 FNSP 30 Oct; 2 DH 3, 13 Nov.

Cackling Goose: arr 3 N Collins ERIE 9 Oct; 4, 4, 2 INWR 16, 31 Oct, 7 Nov; 5 OOWMA 3 Nov; Dayton CATT 12 Nov; Cassadaga CHAU 27 Nov.

Mute Swan: BeSP 2, 8, 25 Sep, 18 Oct; max 16 Carlton ORLE 29 Sep; 7 Wilson NIAG 16

Oct; DH 2, 27 Nov; Cassadaga CHAU 7 Nov; 3 Mayville ChauL 8 Nov; 8 PB 21 Nov; 5 WTSP 22 Nov.

Trumpeter Swan: 2 Hanover CHAU 1, 30 Sep, 11 Nov (GV, JP); max 12, 11 INWR 10 Oct, 20 Nov; 2 RWNP 30 Oct (CH).

Tundra Swan: arr 6 INWR, 5 Wilson NIAG 28 Oct; 40 Shelby ORLE 11 Nov; 72 Celeron ChauL 16 Nov; 104 BeSP 20 Nov; max 125 NF 26 Nov.

Wood Duck: 92 Tift NP 8 Sep; 79 BWWTP 14 Sep; max 804, 381 TWMA 24 Sep, 15 Oct (CM, MW), coming to roost near dusk.

Blue-winged Teal: 30 BuFH 3 Sep; 30 BWWTP 5 Sep; 72 TWMA 1 Oct (MW); last 10 BWWTP 4 Nov.

Northern Shoveler: max 125, 143, 125 BWWTP 9 Sep, 27 Oct, 5 Nov; 3 Jamestown CHAU 22 Nov; 4 INWR 28 Nov.

Gadwall: 89, 81 Tift NP 22 Oct, 21 Nov; max 158 INWR 1 Nov; 50 DH 21 Nov; 70 TWMA 25 Nov.

American Wigeon: max 315 INWR 16 Oct; 71 OOWMA 7 Nov.

Mallard: max 542 TWMA 1 Oct (MW).

American Black Duck: 16 GHSP 28 Oct; 15 Machias CATT 8 Nov; max 26 INWR 20 Nov; 21 BWWT 27 Nov.

Northern Pintail: 84 TWMA 4 Oct; max 103 GHSP 25 Oct; 20 INWR 25 Nov; 7 BuFH 29 Nov.

Green-winged Teal: max 153 TWMA 1 Oct; 68 Dayton CATT 24 Oct; 130 INWR 20 Nov; 21 Cuba L ALLE 21 Nov.

Canvasback: BWWT 14, 17 Sep (BC, VR); 2, 5 Dayton CATT 23, 25 Oct; max 1600 NF 27 Nov.

Redhead: 1, 11 BWWT 6, 27 Sep; 5 BuSP 25 Sep; 44, 100 Ellery ChauL 17 Oct, 27 Nov; max 150 NF 26 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: Tift NP 6 Sep; 31 BWWT 3 Oct; max 170, 100 Dayton CATT 17 Oct, 1 Nov; 97 N Collins ERIE 7 Nov; 75 NF 26 Nov.

Greater Scaup: arr 13 GHSP 3 Oct; max 500 BuFH 1 Nov; 200 DH 22 Nov; max 500 NF 27 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: BWWT 11 Sep; 11 LBSP 14 Sep; max 1200, 1000 Ellery ChauL 13, 27 Nov.

King Eider: 4 Buffalo NR 8-30 Nov (JF, mob).

Harlequin Duck: NFSP 8, 29 Nov (JSt, JSk), regular location; Buffalo NR 21, 27 Nov (CH, MR).

Surf Scoter: arr 1, max 22 Buffalo NR 30 Sep, 24 Oct; EvSP 12 Oct; 2 Dayton CATT, 2 BWWT 14 Oct; 2, 2 DH 28 Oct, 9 Nov; 4 BuFH 8 Nov; 2 Olcott, NIAG 8 Nov; 2 FNSP 26 Nov.

White-winged Scoter: Barcelona CHAU 1 Sep (GV); 2 Buffalo NR 30 Sep; 37 GHSP 24 Oct; N Collins ERIE 7 Nov; 3 Ellery ChauL 14 Nov; 2 Cassadaga CHAU 25 Nov; max 120 FNSP 27 Nov.

Black Scoter: arr 3 Buffalo NR 11 Oct; 14, 8 BuFH 22 Oct, 8 Nov; 11 Sturgeon Pt ERIE 25 Oct; max 41 GHSP 25 Oct; 22 DH 3 Nov; 6 LBSP 8 Nov.

Long-tailed Duck: arr Wilson NIAG 12 Oct; 179 GHSP 28 Oct; max 500 BuFH 21 Nov.

Bufflehead: 1, 152, 76 BWWT 6 Sep, 30 Oct, 5 Nov; 68 GHSP 28 Oct; max 1100 Buffalo NR 15 Nov; 170 NFSP 22 Nov; 180 N Harmony ChauL 22 Nov.

Common Goldeneye: 2 WoBSP 12 Sep; 1, 125 FNSP 18 Sep, 27 Nov; 59 GHSP 28 Oct; 130 Ellery ChauL 7 Nov; max 500 NF 26 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: 49, 132 INWR 30 Oct, 6 Nov; max 170 Dayton CATT 11 Nov; 150 Cuba L ALLE 21 Nov; 122 DH 27 Nov.

Common Merganser: 111 Sturgeon Pt ERIE 3 Oct; max 200 Dayton CATT 4 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: 17 LBSP 15 Sep; 611 GHSP 28 Oct; 450 Olcott NIAG 8 Nov; max 650 LESP 13 Nov; 300 Barcelona CHAU 16 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: 32, 947, 635 BWWT 27 Sep, 30 Oct, 3 Nov (DBea, VR); 3, 100 N Harmony ChauL 29 Sep, 22 Nov; 83, 324, 100 Dayton CATT 4, 14 Oct, 1 Nov (JM, JoK).

Pied-billed Grebe: max 21 TWMA 24 Sep; 14, 17, 12 N Collins ERIE 4, 18 Oct, 7 Nov; 14 Celoron ChauL 31 Oct.

Horned Grebe: arr BuSP 24 Sep; Olean CATT 28 Sep; 11 Salamanca CATT 22 Oct; 26 GHSP 28 Oct; 28 PB 9 Nov; max 34 DH 27 Nov; 21 Ellery ChauL 27 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: arr 2, 9 GHSP 3, 28 Oct; 2 Buffalo ERIE 13 Oct; 1, 2 Dayton CATT 18 Oct (JoK, BR); 2 BeSP 3 Nov; Cuba L ALLE 24 Nov; five other Nov records.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 1, 2 Fredonia CHAU 11 Sep, 3 Oct; Dunkirk CHAU 25 Sep; last INWR 10 Oct.

Black-billed Cuckoo: Allegheny Res CATT 5, 9 Sep; Sturgeon Pt ERIE 10 Sep; Krull CP 11 Sep; Tift NP 14 Sep; last CSWMA 6 Oct (BR ph!).

Common Nighthawk: 3, 12, 1 Grand Island ERIE 1, 9, 16 Sep; 6, 15, 7 BeSP 1, 2, 5 Sep; 2 Silver Creek CHAU 3 Sep; 7 OOWMA 6 Sep; last 3 Ripley CHAU 5 Oct.

Chimney Swift: max 480 INWR 6 Sep (JG *et al.*), impressive count.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Grand Island ERIE 13 Oct.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: East Amherst ERIE 17 Oct – 1 Nov (KLL, mob), first year female based on ID from many photos.

RUFIOUS/ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD: Colden ERIE 23 Oct – 5 Nov (J&KL), apparent male but inconclusive to species.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Virginia Rail: max 4 Tift NP 3 Sep; 3

Chautauqua CHAU 6 Sep; BWWT, TWMA 27 Oct; 2 BeSP 4 Nov; last OOWMA 7 Nov.

Sora: max, last 3, 1 Tift NP 20 Sept, 7 Nov; 3 INWR 29 Sep; BeSP 20 Oct.

PURPLE GALLINULE: Franklinville CATT 23 Oct (LO ph!), photographed at an elementary school, third Reg record.

Common Gallinule: 45, 50 TWMA 6, 24 Sep; 35 OOWMA 6 Sep; last INWR 23 Oct.

American Coot: max 231 TWMA 21 Oct; 150 TWMA 5 Nov; 111 Celeron ChauL 13 Nov.
Sandhill Crane: 6 Shelby ORLE 1 Sep; 4 Allegheny Res CATT 16 Sep (JoK); 4 CSWMA 21 Sep; max 14, 20, 16, 20 INWR 9, 10, 31 Oct, 22 Nov (CM, LWS, LB).
American Avocet: 3 BufH 29 Sep (KR); last 2 DH 16 Oct (GV).
Black-bellied Plover: 4 BufH 19 Sep; max 8 Allegheny Res CATT 23 Sep; 2 GHSP 28 Oct; 2 Somerset NIAG 31 Oct.
American Golden-Plover: INWR 6 Sep; 12 Shelby ORLE 12 Sep; 3 BufH 15 Sep; Wilson NIAG 19 Sep; 4 Allegheny Res CATT 23 Sep (JoK); Sheridan CHAU 8, 9 Oct; last TWMA 27 Oct.
Semipalmated Plover: 20 Allegheny Res CATT 9 Sep (JoK); 14, last 2 BufH 3, 23 Oct.
Upland Sandpiper: West Seneca ERIE 6 Sep (TK), nocturnal flight calls.
Ruddy Turnstone: Barcelona CHAU 8 Sep; 2 Sturgeon Pt ERIE 10 Sep; 2 BWWT 12 Sep; 6, 5 BufH 13, 23 Sep; last 2, 1 DH 30 Sep, 5 Oct.
Red Knot: Barcelona CHAU 5 Sep (CV); last 4 BufH 16 Sep (KR).
Stilt Sandpiper: 1, 1 Allegheny Res CATT 14, 26 Sep (BR, JM), only reports.
Sanderling: 14, 28 BufH 4, 5 Sep; 13 Barcelona CHAU 5 Sep; 19 Allegheny Res CATT 13 Sep (KB), good total for inland; 3, 5 DH 5 Oct, 2 Nov; 2 Olcott NIAG 31 Oct.
Dunlin: max 58 WoBSP 26 Oct; 35, 36 INWR 28 Oct, 8 Nov; last BWWT 29 Nov.
Baird's Sandpiper: N Harmony CHAU 6 Sep (KV); 2 INWR 6 Sep (PY); Newfane NIAG 6 Sep (JoK); only reports.
Least Sandpiper: last Dayton CATT 19 Oct.
White-rumped Sandpiper: BWWT 1, 3 Nov; only report.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: BufH 7 Sep (JoK, mob), only report.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 25 Allegheny Res CATT 21 Sep (KB); 17 BMAC 1 Oct; last Machias CATT 11 Nov (JR).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 1, 7 BMAC 1, 10 Oct (JRB, SC).
WESTERN SANDPIPER (R1): Allegheny Res CATT 16 Sep (JoK ph!), rare.
American Woodcock: Buffalo ERIE 31 Oct, outside downtown buildings; Amherst ERIE 3 Nov; last Yorkshire CATT 7 Nov.
Wilson's Snipe: last Ripley CHAU 18 Nov.
Spotted Sandpiper: last Amherst ERIE 12 Oct.

Solitary Sandpiper: last Somerset NIAG 21 Oct (JSt), late.
Lesser Yellowlegs: last 2 CSWMA 10 Nov.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 28 OOWMA 9 Oct; last Cuba ALLE 15 Nov.
Red-necked Phalarope: 3, 3, 4, 1 Buffalo NR 7, 13, 30 Sep, 7 Oct (JM, TJM, AHu), during strong wind events; BWWT 2-3 Oct.
Red Phalarope: BWWT 2 Oct (CM ph!), rare.
Parasitic Jaeger: 2, 3, 3 Buffalo NR 13, 30 Sep, 7 Oct (GL, JoK, AHu), during wind events; 2 Wilson NIAG 16 Oct; Olcott NIAG 20 Oct; GHSP 24 Oct.
LONG-TAILED JAEGER (R1): 1, 2 Buffalo NR 30 Sep, 7 Oct (JoK, AHu, mob), rare.
Jaeger sp.: 2 BufH 7 Sep (PY); 2 BOSOC.
Black-legged Kittiwake: BufH 1, 20 Nov (JM, KR); Whirlpool NR NIAG 24 Nov (BO); only reports.
Sabine's Gull: Buffalo ERIE 27-30 Nov (BH, mob), well observed by many.
Bonaparte's Gull: 450, 390 Buffalo NR 30 Sep, 16 Nov; 400 FNFP 17 Oct; max 800, 325 DH 28 Oct, 9 Nov.
Little Gull: max 1, 1, 2, 5 Buffalo NR 7, 30 Sep, 7 Oct, 16 Nov; DH 9, 20 Nov; 2 BeSP 20 Nov.
Laughing Gull: BufH 2 Sep (SB); BWWT 5-14 Sep, 2-3 Oct (JC, mob); Buffalo NR 7 Sep (AHu), continued from late Aug.
MEW GULL: NF 23, 24 Nov (JSp, MJ ph!), seen from Ontario side but also in NY waters, thought to one of the Eurasian subspecies *canus* or *heinei*.
Herring Gull: 500 Cuba L ALLE 21 Nov, good count for inland.
Iceland Gull: arr Wilson NIAG 3 Nov; WoBSP 20 Nov; Cuba L ALLE 21 Nov; NFSP 25 Nov; DH 27 Nov; 2 NPP 29 Nov.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: Barcelona CHAU 7 Sep; WoBSP 16 Sep; LBSP 19 Sep; 2, 5 NFSP 30 Sep, 25 Nov; DH 4 Oct; 2 WoBSP 22 Oct; Olcott NIAG 28 Oct; max 15 Cuba ALLE 21 Nov (TiL), excellent inland count; Sardinia ERIE 30 Nov (JoK).
Glaucous Gull: arr Krull CP 1, 20, 21 Nov; NFSP 24 Nov; only reports.
Caspian Tern: max 25, last 3 BeSP 7 Sep, 9 Oct.
Black Tern: 1, max 10, 2, last 1 Buffalo NR 2, 7, 30 Sep, 7 Oct; BWWT 13 Sep (MJ).
Common Tern: max 119 Buffalo NR 13 Sep; 17 Wilson NIAG 1 Oct; DH 26 Oct; last BufH 9 Nov.

Forster's Tern: INWR 14 Oct (VR), only report.

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: arr Wilson NIAG 16 Oct; 9 Olcott NIAG 31 Oct; max 60 Olcott NIAG 4 Nov; 9 PB 15 Nov.

Common Loon: 5 Wilson NIAG 12 Sep; max 96 GHSP 24 Oct; 11 Krull CP 29 Nov.

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT: BWWT 5-12 Sep (KG, mob), third documented Reg report.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 2750, 3300 BuFH 22 Sep, 6 Oct; 2800 DH 22 Oct; 400 BuFH 1 Nov.

American White Pelican: OOWMA 3, 27 Sep, 1, 10 Oct, continuing from summer.

American Bittern: Tift NP 4 Sep; INWR 19 Sep; TWMA 24 Sep; RWNP 25 Sep; Lewiston NIAG 14 Oct (JRB); BeSP 17 Oct, 5 Nov; TWMA 27 Oct; last CSWMA 7 Nov.

Least Bittern: TBNP 1 Sep; Tift NP 3, 19 Sep; TWMA 6 Sep; only reports.

Great Egret: last 76, 1 INWR 3 Sep, 8 Nov; max 137 TWMA 24 Sep.

Cattle Egret: 1-2 DH 16 Oct (GV, BR); INWR 25 Oct – 10 Nov (AHe, mob), long staying bird.

Green Heron: last New Albion ALLE 22 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: last S Buffalo ERIE 17 Oct.

Black Vulture: max 6, 4 Lewiston NIAG 4 Oct, 14 Nov (WD, BP).

Turkey Vulture: 24 Lewiston NIAG 25 Nov, max beyond Oct.

Osprey: last INWR 3 Nov.

Golden Eagle: Buffalo ERIE 25 Oct (JF), rare.

MISSISSIPPI KITE: BeSP 12 Sep (JoK), brief flyover; fifth Reg record.

Red-shouldered Hawk: only three reports beyond Oct.

Broad-winged Hawk: last Jamestown CHAU 23 Sep.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr 2 INWR 27 Oct; 3 CSWMA 29 Nov (JM)

BARN OWL (R1): 1-2 Fredonia, CHAU 11-21 Nov (DBa, KD, GV, mob), rare.

Snowy Owl: arr BH 21 Nov.

Barred Owl: Buffalo ERIE 19 Oct (SS), unusual location.

Long-eared Owl: no reports.

Short-eared Owl: arr BuSP 27 Oct (AHu); 6 Jamestown CHAU 23 Nov; max 12 Conewango CATT 28 Nov (DC); 5 INWR 29 Nov.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: total 45 banded Wethersfield WYOM 7 Oct -21 Nov (DJ); Wilson NIAG 8 Oct (BP, WD); 1, 2 Forestville CHAU 26 Oct, 6 Nov (GV); Jamestown CHAU 8 Nov (JB).

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 3 FNSP 12 Sep; Tift NP 1 Oct; last Orchard Park ERIE 6 Oct.

Peregrine Falcon: max 4 INWR 1 Sep (PH); Dayton CATT 22 Nov.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: last Fredonia CHAU 25 Sep.

Eastern Kingbird: last Keeney Swamp ALLE 20 Sep.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: AmSP 3 Sep; Allegheny Res CATT 6 Sep; last Charlotte CHAU, BeSP, NFSP 12 Sep (GV, JoK, HS, BK).

Eastern Wood-Pewee: last BOSOC.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: eight Sep reports; last WoBSP 3 Oct (SB, ph!).

Least Flycatcher: last Sheridan CHAU 6 Oct (GV ph!), late.

Eastern Phoebe: last Sardinia ERIE 7 Nov.

Northern Shrike: arr GHSP, INWR 31 Oct.

White-eyed Vireo: FLC 14 Oct (DM, SP); AmSP 8, 10 Nov (AG, SB); fall reports outnumber spring reports in recent years.

Yellow-throated Vireo: WTSP 2 Oct (WD, BP); last 2 AmSP 5 Oct (RSh, SH ph!), late.

Blue-headed Vireo: last BuFH 3 Nov.

Philadelphia Vireo: max 2, 3 AmSP 6, 14 Sep; 2 WoBSP 12 Sep; last AmSP 10 Oct.

Warbling Vireo: last AmSP 5 Oct (CH, RSh, SH), late.

Red-eyed Vireo: last WoBSP 15 Oct.

Fish Crow: 2, 3 Buffalo ERIE 5, 28 Nov (SD, AHu); 3 FLC 19 Nov (AHu); has become regular in Buffalo in winter and spring in recent years.

Common Raven: max 7 Yates ORLE 24 Oct.

Horned Lark: 192 Shelby ORLE 4 Sep.

Purple Martin: max 15000, 10000 BuSP 1, 3 Sep (AHu, MN, TK), coming to night roost at Grass Island; last 2 BWWT 13 Sep.

Tree Swallow: max 1000, 600 BWWT 6 Sep, 16 Oct; 500 INWR 6 Sep; 2 last BWWT 5 Nov.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: last 2 BWWT 27 Oct.

Bank Swallow: max 40, last 1 BWWT 5, 14 Sep.

Cliff Swallow: last 2 BWWT 13 Sep.

CAVE SWALLOW: Krull CP 8 Nov (BC, MM, mob ph!), rare.
Barn Swallow: last 2 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 26 Sep.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: increased numbers with irruption.
House Wren: last BuSP 22 Oct.
Winter Wren: max 5 AmSP 10 Nov (SB).
Marsh Wren: BeSP 4 Nov (VR); Ellicottville CATT 7 Nov (JaK); late.
Carolina Wren: 44 BOSOC, seems on the upswing.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last BeSP 4 Nov (RT ph!), late.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr WoBSP 25 Sep.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr LESP 6 Sep.
Veery: max 50 Chautauqua CHAU 6 Sep (TiL), nocturnal flight calls; last Wilson NIAG 29 Sep.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr LESP 9 Sep; max 3 LBSP 26 Sep (DBem); last BeSP 16 Oct.
Swainson's Thrush: max 25 Chautauqua CHAU 6 Sep (TiL), nocturnal flight calls; 12 GHSP 16 Sep; last Bethany GENE 21 Oct.
Wood Thrush: last Canadaway Creek WMA CHAU 13 Oct (GV).
Gray Catbird: nine Nov reports indicative of species lingering longer.
Brown Thrasher: last BOSOC.
Cedar Waxwing: 350 LBSP 18 Oct; 423, 860 Krull CP 6, 10 Nov, big flights; 600 BWWT 24 Nov.
American Pipit: arr Allegheny Res CATT 12 Sep; max 135 Somerset NIAG 20 Oct.
Evening Grosbeak: arr 6 Wilson NIAG 16 Oct; 21 Shelby ORLE 24 Oct; 21 GHSP 25 Oct; reports from 26 locations in Oct; max 45 Krull CP 5 Nov; max 45 LESP 10 Nov.
Pine Grosbeak: Krull CP 5, 26 Nov (WD, BP); only reports.
House Finch: max 79 Hamburg ERIE (PE), impressive count.
Purple Finch: 13 Orchard Park ERIE 3 Sep; max 14 LESP 23 Sep; max 14 INWR 28 Oct.
Common Redpoll: arr 15 GHSP, 6 BWWT 31 Oct; max 303, 275 Krull CP 13, 21 Nov; 110 Jamestown CHAU 14 Nov; 175 LESP 25 Nov.
Hoary Redpoll: BWWT 5 Nov (BC); BufH 12 Nov (JoK); Sturgeon Point, ERIE 19 Nov (SB); rare, all documented with photos.
Red Crossbill: arr 4 GHSP 25 Oct; max 115, 90, 21 Krull CP 8, 9, 21 Nov; mostly Type 10s but one recording each of Types 2 and 4; *intro.*

White-winged Crossbill: arr 1, 18, 28 Krull CP 3, 6, 21 Nov; 10 FNSP 26 Nov; 4 BWWT 29 Nov.
Pine Siskin: arr 4 LESP, 2 Grand Island ERIE, East Amherst ERIE 23 Sep; 82, 66 Krull CP 6, 8 Nov; max 106 Newfane NIAG 22 Nov; 75 Wilson NIAG 26 Nov.
American Goldfinch: max 318 Krull CP 6 Nov (MM, mob), good flight count.
Lapland Longspur: arr Somerset NIAG BOSOC; only report.
Snow Bunting: arr 9 WTSP, Buffalo NR 25 Oct; max 98, 328 Krull CP 6, 21 Nov.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: last RWN 11 Nov.
American Tree Sparrow: arr BeSP 20 Oct.
Chipping Sparrow: BufH, Hanover CHAU 11 Nov, last Nov reports.
Clay-colored Sparrow: 2 Lewiston NIAG 4 Oct (WD, BP), present at location in summer.
Field Sparrow: Sheridan CHAU 22 Nov, last Nov report.
Vesper Sparrow: Ischua CATT, BWWT 4 Oct, only report.
Savannah Sparrow: Tift NP 9 Nov; Fredonia CHAU 21 Nov (TiL); only Nov reports.
Nelson's Sparrow: 2, 1 CSWMA 4, 14 Oct (JM, BR, JoK); BeSP 13 Oct (SB); within typical timeframe of fall reports.
Fox Sparrow: arr BuSP 7 Oct; 4 Rushford ALLE 3 Nov; max 7 Machias CATT 8 Nov; max 7 Ripley CHAU 12 Nov; 4 Ashford CATT 16 Nov.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr HBWMA 8 Sep; last BeSP 26 Oct.
Swamp Sparrow: max 35 CSWMA 14 Oct.
White-throated Sparrow: arr Wilson NIAG 11 Sep; max 74 LESP 24 Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: max 47 Sheridan CHAU 14 Oct.
Bobolink: max 40, 50 INWR 8, 10 Sep; last CSWMA 14 Oct (BR, JoK), late.
Eastern Meadowlark: 4 Conewango CATT 12 Nov (BR); Krull CP 26 Nov (WD, BP); only Nov reports.
Baltimore Oriole: Tift NP 14 Sep; AmSP 31 Oct, 14-15 Nov (JSa, CH), late.
Red-winged Blackbird: 800 TWMA 6 Sep; max 7000 INWR 24 Oct; 400 Pomfret CHAU 4 Nov.
Rusty Blackbird: arr Tift NP 19 Sep; 100 Shelby ORLE 21 Oct; 38 BuSP 26 Oct; 75 INWR 27 Oct; max 150 TWMA 8 Nov (MW).

Common Grackle: 800 Shelby ORLE 1 Sep; max 2000 Royalton NIAG 18 Oct.
Ovenbird: FNSP 8 Sep; last AmSP, Tift NP 5 Oct.
Northern Waterthrush: last WoBSP 25 Sep.
Golden-winged Warbler: no reports.
Blue-winged Warbler: last Allegheny Res CATT 28 Sep (JoK).
Black-and-white Warbler: last Bethany GENE 21 Oct.
Prothonotary Warbler: Willing ALLE 18 Oct (MS ph!), first fall Reg record.
Tennessee Warbler: max 11 WoBSP 12 Sep; BuFH 26 Oct; RWNP 11 Nov (NJ), late.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr BWWTP 5 Sep; six Oct reports; Genesee CP GENE 27 Nov (BC), late.
Nashville Warbler: max 9 WoBSP 12 Sep; last AmSP 31 Oct.
Connecticut Warbler: AmSP 8 Sep (RSa); BeSP 11 Sep (SB); Allegheny Res CATT 23 Sep (JoK); good showing.
Mourning Warbler: last Sardinia ERIE 27 Sep; five other Sep reports.
Common Yellowthroat: RWNP 31 Oct; BWWTP 22 Nov (CB); Tift NP 29 Nov (JJ); good showing for late season birds.
Hooded Warbler: max 5 INWR 8 Sep; RWNP 1 Oct; last HBWMA 9 Oct.
American Redstart: last Buffalo ERIE 26 Oct.
Cape May Warbler: 12 Long Pt SP CHAU 13 Sep (KV); max 30, 10 Chautauqua CHAU 17, 23 Sep (KV); last BuFH 21 Oct.
Northern Parula: BuFH 27 Oct; last Sheldon WYOM 4 Nov (GJD), late.

Magnolia Warbler: last ACNC 7 Nov (RSt), late.
Bay-breasted Warbler: max 12 WTSP 8 Sep; last BuFH 2 Nov (SS), late.
Blackburnian Warbler: NFSP 27 Nov (ToL), late.
Yellow Warbler: BusP 29 Sep (AHu); last Tift NP 9 Oct (JE), late.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last Bethany GENE 14 Oct.
Blackpoll Warbler: 12 Chautauqua CHAU 23 Sep; max 17 WTSP 26 Sep (WD, BP); last Buffalo ERIE 24 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last Allegheny Res CATT 22 Oct.
Palm Warbler: arr BWWTP 6 Sep; last BeSP 19 Oct.
Pine Warbler: max 8 Charlotte CHAU 1 Sep; 6 AISP 4 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 89 BuSP 5 Oct; 12 BuSP 3 Nov; 16 BeSP 5 Nov.
Prairie Warbler: Gerry CHAU 1 Sep; last LESP 6 Sep (TiL).
Black-throated Green Warbler: last 2 AmSP 25 Oct.
Canada Warbler: last Tift NP, Forestville CHAU 12 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: last Willing ALLE 9 Oct.
Scarlet Tanager: max 5 LESP, 5 Darien Lakes SP GENE 6 Sep; last AmSP 24 Oct (CH), late.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last Portville ALLE 5 Oct.
Indigo Bunting: 3, 1 BeSP 28, 30 Sep; EvSP 12 Oct; last TBNP 25 Oct (JE ph), late.

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REGION 2—GENESEE

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Fall 2020 saw a pleasant, seasonal-to-mild period of weather. September brought a plunge to tying record cold on 18 and 19 September, with an early frost away from Lake Ontario. Temperatures averaged 62.2° F, 0.4° above normal, and precipitation totaled 2.29", 1.09" below normal, with ¾ of that falling on the last two days of the month. October began cool and continued warming through days ideal for viewing the fall color show to a peak at a record 80° on 23 October. A sharp cold front late that day led to colder temperatures for the rest of the month, with a few flurries and the first hard freeze on 31 October.

Temperatures averaged 50.9°, 0.3° above normal, and precipitation totaled 2.76", 0.04" above average. Nine days of rain, 19-27 October was a record length stretch for an October. The really mild autumn showed in November, with the period 4-10 November running 10° above normal. Temperatures averaged 45.5°, 5.0° above normal, for the ninth warmest November on record. Record highs occurred on the 9th and 10th at 77° and 78°, respectively, and the latter a warmest on record for so late in the season. Precipitation at 2.28" was 0.66" below average. Rain turned to snow on 1 November, and 0.99" of rain fell on 30 November, with the rest of the precipitation scattered between. Snowfall totaled only 1.2", 6.1" below normal and in great contrast with the same month a year earlier.

Generally, starting with the weather, this was an excellent season for birding. Each month saw the species count close to record high, with 219 species in October a new high. Relative to their 10-year averages by month we had: September – 220 vs. 218.4, October – 219 vs. 203.5, and November 165 vs. 154.3. The eBird downloads for our Region were well above those of last year, with September's 34,413 lines of data up 56%, October at 36,559 lines more than double, and November at 29,372 lines up 67%. Some of this may be due to small drops in those numbers last year, but these are large increases. Other causes include more people enjoying birding as a safe outdoor activity in this year of COVID and likely also a continuation of bird listing or data-gathering related to Breeding Bird Atlas activity. But then, as a more natural set of causes, we have the warm fall, many species lingering on to later departure dates, most of the winter finches arriving in October and all present in November, an influx of owls in the usual spring roosting area in Owl Woods, and a good number of rarer species. The increase also showed in banding numbers at the Braddock Bay Bird Observatory (BBBO) site, up 75% over 2019 through October and banding in November pushing that to up 78%. There was also still a decent collection of warblers into November. But for all the late birds in October, eight species late relative to the 1984 Monroe County Checklist, only one species, Mourning Warbler, set a record late date. In addition, Jim Adams noted in his series of data from Oatka Creek Park that the species counts by half month for that site were at or near records highs until dropping back to normal in the latter half of November.

Moving to the usual sets of species, we start with waterfowl and hit basically the same broken record as in recent years—essentially all really expected species were reported in each month of the season, and generally numbers and especially peak counts were low. As usual, there are interesting details to add. In September, Snow Goose, Brant, and the scoters arrived at fairly early dates. Only Mallard and Red-breasted Merganser were reported at counts >100. Some of the depressed counts are certainly due to the low water levels in the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA), where peaks are often tallied. Into October, the picture was no clear misses and Greater White-fronted Goose, Cackling Goose, and Harlequin Duck as rarer records. November was similar, with Ross's Goose, Blue-winged Teal, and Eurasian Wigeon almost regular and missed. Most numbers remained low, but quite a few species had one good count and a few species several decent counts. King Eider was reported in good numbers, with up to 11 off Wayne County, and there were three Harlequin Ducks reported. Both Horned and Red-necked Grebes had good peak counts.

The mix of species following waterfowl to Sandhill Crane had few noteworthy observations; typical. Of some note were: no large Common Nighthawk numbers and the usual large Chimney Swift spectacle at the York Central School in Griegsville missed, leaving 100 at the south end of Irondequoit Bay the high for that species. With the low water in the NMWMA area, the large numbers of American Coot and Common Gallinule of recent years were missed. A bright spot was Sandhill Crane in the NMWMA (Van Dyne

Spoor Rd.) area with up to 70 in October, but with a new Regional high of 150 reported in November, with higher yet counts in nearby Region 3.

As usual, the shorebird picture was interesting. Lake Ontario levels dropping provided mudflats and sandbars along the south lakeshore and in its bays, but lack of heavy rains limited the farm-field and NMWMA habitat. So all season, the bulk of the records are from the areas near Lake Ontario, with the barrier beach at the mouth of Braddock Bay a prime site. Species variety was good through the season, with 25 to 20 to still 16 species through the three months. Counts were generally poor other than a few Dunlin counts in October and November. Stilt Sandpiper was missed in the Region for the season. Among the more interesting observations were: Upland Sandpiper, Whimbrel, Red Knot, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and a count of four Red-necked Phalaropes passing Hamlin beach in September. In October, 1-3 Hudsonian Godwits on the barrier beach island until the 17th and Purple Sandpiper at the south end of Irondequoit Bay at month's end drew the most attention. By November, lingering Purple Sandpiper and a long-staying Red Phalarope at the south end of Irondequoit Bay were best. Departures were typical, other than a Spotted Sandpiper and a Lesser Yellowlegs a bit late.

The regular gulls and terns of the area provided no real highlights, with species recorded as expected and numbers modest to low. Passing Bonaparte's Gull numbers were low, so no Little Gull reports is not a surprise. In contrast, it was a very good fall for jaegers, with Parasitic at 63 in September, ~ 14 in October, and one more on 1 November. In addition, there were one Long-tailed Jaeger on 4 September, an adult on 16 September, and two Long-tailed/Parasitic on 5 September. There were also ten jaegers not identified to species in September and one in October. Rarer or otherwise interesting gulls included: three different Black-legged Kittiwakes scattered across the Region along the Lake Ontario shore; two immature **Sabine's Gulls (R2)** passing Hamlin Beach on 14 September; an immature Laughing Gull on 4 September and two more photographed on 4 and 9 October; good numbers of Lesser Black-backed Gulls each month; and Iceland and Glaucous Gulls arriving in November on the 1st and 17th, respectively.

The loon movement was generally disappointing, with only one Red-throated and a peak of 34 Common Loons in September, when we often see the first 100+ count for a day. Common Loons peaked at 217 in October, then Andy Guthrie caught a good Red-throated Loon movement of 1051 past Hamlin Beach on 25 November. The best Double-crested Cormorant gatherings were in feeding frenzies off Hamlin Beach. The lone Northern Gannet report was from Tim Lenz and Davey Walters lakewatching at Beechwood State Park in Wayne County. These observers also reported a **Neotropic/Double-crested Cormorant** passing this area on 12 September. Two **American White Pelicans** were seen and photographed passing the Braddock Bay barrier island on 1 September, and Mitchell Barry contacted Andy Guthrie at home south of Hamlin Beach where he later spotted them to the north as they flew by headed west. Kim Hartquist spotted a very rare **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** at the barrier beach on 25 September, and it was seen there by a few others that day and then off and on around Braddock through the 29th. The Region's third **White-faced Ibis** was found by Sheryl Gracewski and Tom Nash on Salmon Creek just inland from Braddock Bay on 7 October and seen and photographed there by many that day. On 23 October, Jessie Barry, Jim Barry, and Chris Wood spotted a *plegadis* ibis species passing off the Greece shore over Lake Ontario. Black-crowned Night-Heron provided a late departure date on 23 November.

Typical of this time of year, the raptors through the rest of the non-passerine species provided few noteworthy observations. Among the raptors, the missing and scarce included the usual, no Black Vultures or Northern Goshawks, only a few Red-shouldered Hawks,

and Broad-winged Hawk absent after September. Bald Eagle numbers remained good. Rough-legged Hawk arrived as four reports starting on 23 October, then about 30 more records for November. Jumping ahead, all three regular falcons were reported each month in good numbers from many locations. Merlin numbers were especially good. Moving into the owls, we had only Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, and Barred Owl in September. Short-eared Owl arrived on 10 October, with good numbers reported on regular DEC owl surveys later. Four Snowy Owls were reported from 6-11 November, then a fifth was added, photographed on the roof at BBBO on 24 November. The big story was a surprising influx of Northern Saw-whet Owls. Eleven were tallied in the Manitou-Owl Woods area in October and 19 more were found there in November. Also nearby at the BBBO site, 25 N. Saw-whet Owls were banded from 5-21 November, with 18 of those banded on the 21st, and eight more were banded from 5-14 November. Additionally, one was recorded calling in Zurich Bog, Wayne County, on 6 November by Tim Lenz. One negative in the owl event was that a long-staying, tolerant Barred Owl in the Owl Woods area received too close and long attention from several photographers, who showed no regard for birding/photography ethics. Finishing this grouping of species, Red-headed Woodpecker was not reported in November, and Northern Shrike arrived, with at least eight individuals at six locations in November.

Passerines too showed a strong fall migration, with all expected species reported and numbers of species reported and banded substantially up from the previous year. The migration push was strong from the last half of September through October and into November, with good numbers of half-hardies lingering at season's end. Many species that often depart near 1 October were reported into the month, though a couple flycatcher and swallow species and Bobolink, typically on that list, were not reported after September. This year, 31 species of warblers were recorded in September and still 25 species in October and even six species into November. There are so many interesting passerine observations that I must just pick a few to expand upon here, then note data samples in the species section following and reference the Rochester Birding Association's monthly reports on their website for more detail. Starting in September, we find warblers highlighting the rarer species, with two rare-in-fall Worm-eating Warblers; one Prothonotary Warbler banded; six Orange-crowned Warblers, none banded; six Connecticut Warblers, four of these banded at BBBO; **Yellow-throated Warblers** at the Church & Firehouse trails in Greece on 5, 6, and 12 September and possibly one of these at Kevin Griffith's yard nearby on 15 September; and two Prairie Warblers. October brought 15 more Orange-crowned Warblers, still none banded; one Connecticut Warbler banded on 1 October; and a record late Mourning Warbler photographed in Durand-Eastman Park on 17 October by Greg Lawrence. November added late Orange-crowned Warbler and Northern Parula and record late Tennessee Warbler on 26 November and Blackpoll Warbler on 27 November. Checking with other rare species, we find: two **Cave Swallows** seen passing Hamlin Beach on 6 November by Andy Guthrie; **Nelson's Sparrows** at three sites in October and found record late at the Genesee Airfield on 8 November by Jim Kimball and seen there the next day by Terry Bohling and Brad Carlson; and a Dickcissel photographed in Livonia by Terry Bohling on 28 October. Most of the winter finches arrived in late October and Pine Grosbeak and Hoary Redpoll completed the group in November. On 19 November, Dominic Sherony photographed a **Common "Greater" Redpoll** (*Acanthis flammea rostrata*) at the Braddock Bay barrier beach island, for the first report of that subspecies here in many years. Among the lingering half-hardy species in November, some illustrations of numbers are: 32 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 35 Hermit Thrushes, 35 Winter Wrens, and 15 Gray Catbirds. The Black-capped Chickadee

influx is illustrated by a maximum count of 1036 on 7 November, and for Red-breasted Nuthatch 710 lines in eBird records in November vs. 45 lines in 2019.

Banding at BBBO just west of Braddock near the Lake Ontario shore provides a great deal of data, sometimes hard to summarize. Trying to apply statistics, changes can be hard to detect due to high variances in annual numbers for a variety of reasons. In September, species with high numbers banded, some of the highest here noted with () after the species name, were: Philadelphia Vireo (38), Red-eyed Vireo (108), Gray-cheeked Thrush (78), Swainson's Thrush (327), Gray Catbird, White-throated Sparrow (416), Ovenbird, Nashville Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Magnolia Warbler (206), Bay-breasted Warbler (70), and Blackpoll Warbler (316). In October, the banded numbers for nine species were > two standard deviations more than their averages for the past nine years: Philadelphia and Red-eyed Vireos; Black-capped Chickadee; Swainson's Thrush; Worm-eating Warbler (only 2); Cape May, Bay-breasted, and Blackburnian Warblers; and Purple Finch. All were increases.

The overall picture this fall of increased numbers and good variety is a combination of a warm fall with great birding weather; lots of people birding— a safe COVID-time activity, post BBA activity, ..., a winter finch year; and a variety of rare species visiting. May we have many more of these seasons.

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ABBREVIATIONS

b – banded; **BB** – Braddock Bay, T Greece, MONR; **BB-ES** or **BB-WS** – east or west spit at the mouth of Braddock Bay; **BB-HW** – Braddock Bay hawkwatch; **BBBO** – Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, banding station near end of Manitou Beach Rd west of Braddock Bay; **CL** – Conesus L, LIVI; **G** – T Greece, MONR; **H** – T Hamlin, MONR; **HANA** – High Acres Nature Area, T. Perinton, MONR; **HB** – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; **HB-WE** – West End Trail in HB includes Devil’s Nose area; **HB-YC** – Yanty Creek trail area at east end of park; **IBO** – Irondequoit Bay Outlet to Lake Ontario; **IB-S** – LaSalle Landing P, South end of Irondequoit Bay; **IB P-W** – Irondequoit Bay P West, T of Irondequoit along SW side of the bay, MONR; **M** – along Manitou Beach Rd NE of Lake Ontario Parkway including the BBBO banding station, MONR; **MP** – Mendon Ponds P MONR; **NMWMA** – Northern Montezuma WMA (formerly Northern Montezuma Wetlands Complex), WAYN; **NMWMA (CRd)** – Carncross Rd; **NMWMA (SCU)** – Sandhill Crane Unit; **NMWMA (VDSRd)** – Van Dyne Spoor Rd. area; **OB** – Ontario Beach area, Charlotte, MONR; **SPT** – Sodus Pt, WAYN; **TCEA** – Twin Cedars Environmental Area, Avon DEC; **W** – Town of Webster, MONR; **WP** – Webster P, MONR.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: arr 3 HB 18 Sep; max 18 HB 12 Nov.

Greater White-fronted Goose: arr HB 24, 30 Oct (BCar, mob); 1 N. Hamlin Rd. 28 Oct (NU); HB 8-9 Nov (DHo, BCar); Hemlock L SP 11 Nov (TBo).

Brant: arr 2 SPT 17 Sep (MG); max 1046 SPT 24 Oct (JMcG, LS); last Pultneyville Harbor WAYN 10 Nov (DD).

Cackling Goose: arr 5 HB 2 Oct (MG); max 6 Everhart Rd. Pnd WAYN 17 Oct (TLc, MI) & Perry Public Beach 25 Nov (NK); total ~ 40 ind 5 loc 2-30 Oct (5+ obs); 27 rep, ~ 32 ind 12 loc Nov (20+ obs).

Canada Goose: max 25000 N Hamlin Rd. nr Westphal Rd. 25 Oct (R&SSp); 8500 Perry Public Beach 25 Nov (NK).

Mute Swan: max 144 IB-S 21, 23 Nov.

Trumpeter Swan: max 25 NMWMA (Armitage Rd) 3 Nov (JMcG, LS).

Tundra Swan: arr 7 Burger P, G 5 Oct; max 87 CL – N 17 Nov (TBo), typical for loc.

Wood Duck: max 78 BB – ES 25 Sep (KH, PMar), fall max.

Blue-winged Teal: max 65 BB-ES 2 Sep (GL), good count for loc; last 2-3 CL-N 3 Oct.

Northern Shoveler: max 46 NMWMA (West Shore Trail) 14 Nov (MC, DSi), good number for date.

Gadwall: max 160 Buck Pnd, G 27 Nov, good count.

Eurasian Wigeon: arr 1 ad m HB 8 Oct (AGu, 6 oth obs).

American Wigeon: max 140 Round Pnd, G 16 Nov (JMi), low max.

Mallard: 1500 NWMA (SCU) 14 Nov (JMcG, LS); 1400 IB-S 21 Nov (JMcG); max 3077 NMWMA (SCU) 25 Nov (IBA Monitoring).

American Black Duck: max 125 NMWMA (SCU) 25 Nov (IBA Monitoring).

Northern Pintail: max 3100 NWMA

(Armitage Rd) 23 Oct (BVD, SD), good count.

Mallard x Northern Pintail: IB – S 21 Nov (JMcG).

Green-winged Teal: max 140 HB 25 Oct (AGu), low max.

Canvasback: arr 2 IB-S 15 Oct.

Redhead: max 1530 Groveland Hill Pnd LIVI 23 Nov (NK).

Ring-necked Duck: max 120 Round Pd, G 16 Nov (JiM).

Greater Scaup: max 150 Round Pd, G 16 Nov, low max.

Lesser Scaup: max 105 HB 27 Nov, low max.

Aythya sp.: max 500 Northrup Crk, G 25 Nov (RB).

King Eider: 1 f E Manitou Rd Overlook, G 3, 24-28 Nov (MB, mob), phs; **max 11**

Beechwood SP WAYN 3 Nov (TLe, DW), high count; 5 Brown Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 8 Nov (W&MR); 1 f HB 22 Nov (AGu); 1 imm m HB 27 Nov (AGu).

Harlequin Duck: arr 1 f HB 21 Oct (AGu); 1 f HB 15 Nov (BCar); 1-2 f E Manitou Rd Overlook, G 23-29 Nov (JiM, mob), phs.

Surf Scoter: arr HB 19 Sep (AGu), early.

White-winged Scoter: arr 2 off Edgemere Dr, G & 3, 5 HB 18 Sep; max 103 HB 3 Nov, low max.

Black Scoter: arr off Lakeshore DR, W 27 Sep (DM); max 95 E Manitou Rd Overlook, G 3 Nov (RB, JWa).

Long-tailed Duck: arr 3-4 HB 8 Oct; max 1505 HB 3 Nov (GL), good count.

Bufflehead: arr BB – ES 3 Oct; max 180 Silver L – S WYOM 25 Nov (NK).

Common Goldeneye: arr 2 BB – ES 12 Oct; max 120 BB 29 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: max 165 Silver L – S WYOM 25 Nov (NK).

Common Merganser: max 100 off Cornwall Pres WAYN 17 Oct, low max.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 2530 HB 3 Nov (GL); 1520 HB 22 Nov (AGu); good counts.

duck sp.: max 5000 NMWMA (VDSRd) 13 Nov (MJ, BHa, JHu).

Pied-billed Grebe: max 56 IB P - W 3 Nov (JiM).

Horned Grebe: max 452 HB 3 Nov (AGu), good count.

Red-necked Grebe: max 440 15 HB 27 Nov (AGu), good count.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last MP 1 Oct (MSc).

Black-billed Cuckoo: last Hemlock L – S 4 Oct (GL).

Common Nighthawk: max 12 Honeoye Falls 2 Sep; last Silver L – S WYOM 23 Sep.

Chimney Swift: max 100 IB – S 11 Sep, low max; last Ellison P, T Penfield 1 Oct.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Rochester 11 Oct (JoP).

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Virginia Rail: MP 24 Nov (NK), late, typical wintering area.

Sora: last Ellison P, T Penfield 9 Oct.

Common Gallinule: last 2 HANA 22 Oct (DSH).

American Coot: max 300 BB – ES 23 Oct (TBu).

Sandhill Crane: 70 NMWMA (VDSRd) 23 Oct (DK); max 150 NMWMA (VDSRd) 10 Nov (AJ), very high count, but more reported just outside this Reg.

Black-bellied Plover: last BB-ES 12 Nov (NU).

American Golden-Plover: last NMWMA (VDSRd) 21 Oct.

Semipalmated Plover: last 2 SPT 19 Nov (PMar).

Killdeer: max 139 Nations Rd IBA 7 Sep.

Upland Sandpiper: last BB –HW 23 Sep (KMCD), only record.

Whimbrel: HB 11 Sep (BHa, GH, JHu, MJ); last Webster Golf Club 26 Sep (GF).

Hudsonian Godwit: 1-3 BB-ES & nr 1-17 Sep (ST, mob), many phs.

Ruddy Turnstone: max 10 BB – ES 7 Sep; last Spt 4 Oct.

Red Knot: last OB 16 Sep (KM, J&TV).

Stilt Sandpiper: no reports.

Sanderling: max 38 BB – ES 9 Sep (JGo); last Spt 12 Nov (DW).

Dunlin: max 197 BB - ES 31 Oct (JGo).

Purple Sandpiper: arr IBO 28 Oct (NU, AGu, GL, ph); IBO 29 Oct (JiM, mob, phs); 1-2 BB-ES 14; 27-28 Nov (mob); Spt 21 Nov (MG, JMcG, phs); IBO 25 Nov (A&CGu, NU, phs).

Baird's Sandpiper: last Spt 12 Sep.

Least Sandpiper: last Salmon Crk, G & BB-ES 2-4 Nov (KG, GL, PMar, SG).

White-rumped Sandpiper: last BB – ES 17 Nov (NU).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Cy farms area GENE 7 Oct (RB, JWa, NR, DBea), only rep.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 42 Hemlock L – S 25 Oct (BCar); last BB-ES 16 Nov (Nu, KB).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: last BB – ES 10 Nov (6 obs).

Short-billed Dowitcher: last Salmon Crk, G 5 Oct.

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr 2 BB-ES 27 Sep; last NMWMA (Armitage Rd) 22 Oct (MG).

Wilson's Snipe: last Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Rochester & NMWMA (Martens Tract) 14 Nov.

Spotted Sandpiper: last SPt 6 Nov (MG, ph), late.

Solitary Sandpiper: last TCEA 20 Oct (MW).

Lesser Yellowlegs: last IB – S 12 Nov (JiM).

Red-necked Phalarope: arr BB – ES 13 Sep (JiM, LM, 3 oth obs); 4 HB 16 Sep (AGu), passing.

Red Phalarope: IB-S 18-30 Nov (JiM, mob), many phs.

Parasitic Jaeger: total ~ 63 ind 4 loc 4-28 Sep; max 9 HB 7 Sep (AGu, *et al.*); 1 ea off Edgemere Dr, G 22, 23 Oct (JiB, JeB, CW); 7 singles HB 2-16 Oct (6 obs); 3 HB 17 Oct (GT); Beechwood SP WAYN 17 Oct (TLe, MD); 1; 2 SPt 15; 29 Oct (AT; JW); last HB 1 Nov.

Long-tailed Jaeger: 1 HB 4 Sep (6 obs); 1 ad HB 16 Oct (JiM, DSh).

Parasitic/Long-tailed Jaeger: 2 HB 5 Sep (AGu, DSh); HB 8 Oct (AGu, BCar, KH).

jaeger species: total 10 ind HB 4-21 Sep (7 obs); HB 8 Oct (SG, JiM, PMar).

Black-legged Kittiwake: arr 1 imm Beechwood SP WAYN 3 Nov (TLe, phs); 1 ad off Broadway Rd, WAYN 12 Nov (MG) 1 imm HB 24 Nov (AGu, ph).

SABINE'S GULL (R2): 2 imm HB 14 Sep (RSto, 7 oth obs);

Bonaparte's Gull: max 295 IB-S 21 Nov (JMcG).

Little Gull: no reports.

LAUGHING GULL (R2): 1 imm HB 4 Sep (AGu); 1 ad Salmon Crk, G 4 Oct (8 obs, phs); OB 9 Oct (LBe, ph).

Ring-billed Gull: max 3500 CL 12 Nov (TBo).

Iceland Gull: arr HB 1 Nov.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: total ~ 13 ind 5 loc Sep (16+ obs); 12 rep, 16 ind 8 loc 1-29 Oct (14+ obs); 6 rep, 6 ind 4 loc 7-26 Nov (4 obs).

Glaucous Gull: arr HB 17 Nov.

Caspian Tern: max 40 BB-ES 1 Sep, low max; last OB 24 Oct (NU).

Black Tern: last Hemlock L 4 Sep.

Common Tern: max 94 HB & SPt 29 Sep (SG); last OB 24 Oct (NU).

Forster's Tern: last OB 10 Oct (SG).

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: arr HB 24 Sep (AGu), early; max 1051 HB 25 Nov (AGu), good count.

Common Loon: Sep max 34 24 Sep, often 1st 100+ count by about this date; max 216 HB 24 Oct, low max.

Northern Gannet: Beechwood SP WAYN 12 Nov (TLe, DW), only rep.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 1100 OB 23 Oct (JiM, LM). Sep, good count; 250 Buck Pnd, G (JiB) & SPt (TLe) 2 Nov, good counts for date.

NEOTROPIC/DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: SPt 12 Sep (TLe, DW).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN (R2): 2 BB- ES then later H 1 Oct (MB, then A&DGu), *intro*.

Least Bittern: last Salmon Crk, G 23 Sep.

Great Egret: max 77 NMWMA(CR) 2 Sep (SD), good count.

Green Heron: last CL WMA 14 Oct (OA).

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (R2): 1 imm BB – ES later BB 25; 29 Sep (KH, mob, ph), rare in Reg, *intro*.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: last Old Duck Inn, T Tyre WAYN 23 Nov (DO), late.

WHITE-FACED IBIS: Salmon Crk, G 7 Oct (SG, TN, mob), phs, 3rd Reg record.

plegadis ibis sp.: off Edgemere Dr, G 23 Oct (JeB, JiB, CW).

Black Vulture: no reports.

Osprey: last CL WMA 23 Oct (OA).

Bald Eagle: 238 lines eBird many loc Sep; 181 lines eBird many loc Oct; 183 lines eBird many loc Nov; good numbers.

Northern Goshawk: no reports.

Red-shouldered Hawk: Old Stone Lane, G 20 Oct (JRY), interesting loc; only ~ 9 rep for season.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr HB 23 Oct (AGu); total ~ 30 many loc Nov, good showing.

Snowy Owl: arr SPt 6 Nov (MG, ph); IBO 8 Nov (JiM, ET, mob, phs); BB – ES 9 Oct (GL, NU); BBBO on roof 23 Nov (MRe, ph, *fide* AP).

Barred Owl: M – Owl Woods 23-30 Oct (mob, phs), many failed birding and photo ethics with this bird, *intro*.
Short-eared Owl: arr 1-2 BB – ES 10 Oct; max 7 Buckland P, MONR 29 Nov (GL, MP).
Northern Saw-whet Owl: total 11 M – Owl Woods 16-31 Oct (count team, *fide* JAd); max 3 M – Owl Woods 23 Oct (count team); total b 25 BBBO 5-21 Oct (owl banders); max b 18 BBBO 21 Oct (owl banders); total ~19 M – Owl Woods Nov (counters); total b 8 BBBO 5, 9, 14 Nov (owl banders); Zurich Bog WAYN 6 Nov (TL), heard calling and recorded.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 10 Whiting Rd NP, W 3 Oct (8+ obs).
American Kestrel: ~53 ind 30 loc Sep; ~27 ind 21 loc Oct; 10 ind 10 loc 5-24 Nov (16+ obs).
Merlin: total ~56 ind 30 loc Sep; total ~41 ind 26+ loc Oct; ~40 ind 29 loc Nov.
Peregrine Falcon: total ~18+ ind 11+ loc Sep; total ~29 ind 23+ loc Oct; 12 ind 10 loc Nov.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: total 10 ind 10 loc 1-28 Sep (19 obs).
Eastern Wood-Pewee: last Webster Village 10 Oct (GF).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: total b 20 BBBO 1-19 Sep; last Ellison P, T Penfield & NMWMA (SCU) 3 Oct.
Willow Flycatcher: last Beechwood SP WAYN 26 Sep (JWi).
“Traill’s” Flycatcher: total b 5 BBBO 2-25 Sep; last 1b BBBO 2 Oct, recap 6 Oct.
Least Flycatcher: total b 7 BBBO 8-23 Sep; last Burger P, G 3 Oct.
Eastern Phoebe: total b 9 BBBO 3-27 Oct; last Mission Rd, T Conesus LIVI 2 Nov (BCar).
Great Crested Flycatcher: last Beechwood SP WAYN 25 Sep (JWo).
Eastern Kingbird: last near Clyde WAYN 26 Sep.
Northern Shrike: arr Burger P, G 28 Oct (BCar); 14 rep, ~7 ind 6 loc 3-29 Nov (18+ obs).
Yellow-throated Vireo: last Durand-Eastman P 20 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: last HB – campground 24 Oct (4 obs).
Philadelphia Vireo: total b 38 BBBO 1-28 Sep; last 1b BBBO 20 Oct, late.
Warbling Vireo: last HB 4 Oct (AGu), late.
Red-eyed Vireo: total b 118 BBBO 1 Sep – 8 Oct; last Rochester 24 Oct (MMo).

Common Raven: max 15 Frost Hill Rd, T Naples ONTA 5 Nov (KK), phs on trail cam.
Horned Lark: max 64 HB 23 Oct, low max.
Purple Martin: last BB – ES 7 Sep.
Tree Swallow: max 750 BB – ES 5 Sep, low max; last 15 Sonyea LIVI & 2 NMWMA (VDSRd) 23 Oct.
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: max 640 NMWMA (VDSRd) 23 Sep (JMcG); last 30 NMWMA (VDSRd) 10 Oct (DK).
Bank Swallow: last 50 NMWMA (Malone Marsh) 29 Sep.
Cliff Swallow: last Spt 13 Sep.
CAVE SWALLOW: 2 HB 6 Nov (AGu), only report.
Barn Swallow: last BB – ES 15 Oct.
swallow sp.: max 1000 NMWMA (VDSRd) 2 Oct (RP).
Black-capped Chickadee: total b 544 BBBO 5 Sep – 14 Nov; max b 169 BBBO 27 Oct; 153 b BBBO 25 Oct; 414 HB 6 Nov (AGu); max 1036 BB – WS 7 Nov (GL).
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 710 eBird lines Nov, contrasting with 45 line for Nov 2019.
Brown Creeper: total b 30 BBBO 1–31 Oct.
House Wren: last Fairport MONR & Beechwood SP WAYN 9 Oct.
Winter Wren: total b 13 BBBO 19 Sep – 27 Oct; max 13 HB-WE 11 Oct (AGu); total ~35+ ind 23 loc Nov, very good late numbers.
Marsh Wren: last IB – S 25 Nov (JiM, DSh), late.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 1B P – W 6 Nov (JiM); BB – WS 7; 24 Nov (GL), late.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr Turning Point P, Rochester 3 Sep; max 55 HB – YC 3 Oct (AGu); max b 16 BBBO 22 Oct; total b 99 BBBO 3-31 Oct.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Ellison P, T Penfield 3 Sep; max 62 HB – YC 11 Oct (AGu); max b 27 BBBO 9 Oct; total b 171 BBBO 11 Sep – 31 Oct; ~32 ind 18 loc 1-27 Nov (18+ obs), many for so late.
Veery: total b 25 BBBO 1-28 Sep; last 1 recap BBBO 5 Oct. **Gray-cheeked Thrush:** arr HB 6 Sep; max b 21 BBBO 26 Sep; total b 100 BBBO 5 Sep – 6 Oct, low; last HB – campground 29 Oct (DBem, RSp).
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell’s Thrush: total b 33 BBBO 15 Sep – 5 Oct; last 1 recap BBBO 14 Oct.
Swainson’s Thrush: 24 Webster P 19 Sep (R&SSp); max 25 HB – YC 24 Sep (DBem, RSp); Walworth, WAYN 25 Sep; max b 47 BBBO 24 Oct; total b 401 BBBO 3 Sep – 12 Oct; last Whiting Rd NP, W 30 Oct (AGa).

Hermit Thrush: arr HB – YC 9 Sep; max b 33 BBBO 9 Oct; max 16 Webster P 14 Oct (NU); total b 201 BBBO 17 Sep – 31 Oct; ~35 ind 21 loc Nov; Nov max 7 Webster P 6 Nov (RSp).
Wood Thrush: last Durand-Eastman P 10 Oct.
American Robin: max 325 HB – campground 25 Nov (GL).
Gray Catbird: max 24 Whiting Rd NP, W 3 Sep (GF); total b 102 BBBO 1 Sep – 24 Oct; ~15 ind 12 loc 3-27 Nov, many for so late.
Brown Thrasher: last Ellison P, T Penfield 31 Oct (JiM).
Bohemian Waxwing: 2 M – Owl Woods 20 Nov (NU), only rep.
Cedar Waxwing: max 635 Beechwood SP WAYN 9 Nov (TLe); 440 HB – YC 10 Nov (AGu).
American Pipit: max 90 Nations Rd IBA28 Oct (TBo); 40 Jones Bridge & Perry Rds, LIVI 7 Nov (JKi).
Evening Grosbeak: arr Ellison P, T Penfield 12 Oct (JiM); max 81 HB 23 Oct (AGu); 27 HB – YC 6 Nov (AGu).
Pine Grosbeak: arr Webster P – campground area 6 Nov (AGa, JaG, RR).
Purple Finch: total b 30 BBBO 12-30 Sep, usually few banded.
Common Redpoll: arr Grandview Heights, G 13-15 Oct (KG); max 141 HB 9 Nov (AGu).
COMMON “GREATER” REDPOLL: BB – ES 19 Nov (DSh, ph), first report locally in many years, see photo p. 52, *intro*.
Hoary Redpoll: BB-ES 14 Nov (KH, PMar, phs) & 19 Nov (DS, ph. p. 52), only reps.
Common/Hoary Redpoll: BB-ES 20, 23 Nov (DMcD, NK, phs).
Red Crossbill: arr Webster P 18 Oct (GL, DMcD); max 76 HB 6 Nov (AGu).
White-winged Crossbill: arr 1-4 M – Owl Woods 11 Oct (GL, mob, phs); max 34 M – Owl Woods 3 Nov (6 obs).
Pine Siskin: 125 BB-ES 25 Sep (JiM); max 210 HB 23 Oct (AGu) & HB – campground 29 Oct (DBem, RSp); 120 T Sodus WAYN 16 Nov (JWo); some good counts.
American Goldfinch: total b 27 BBBO 6-31 Oct; max 295 HB 6 Nov (AGu).
Lapland Longspur: arr 2 NMWMA (SCU) 23 Sep (JMcG); max 12 T Caledonia LIVI 25 Oct.
Snow Bunting: arr 20 Buck Pnd, G 24 Oct (MB); max 225 HB 20 Nov (PMar, KG).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: last Ellison P, T Penfield 27 Nov (JiM, LM), late.

American Tree Sparrow: arr HANA 21 Oct (JiM); max 34 CL Inlet WMA 26 Nov.
Chipping Sparrow: max 50 HB 30 Sep (AGu).
NELSON’S SPARROW (R2): 2 Burger P, G 2-4 Oct (PMar, mob, ph); BB – ES 4 Oct (JeB, JiB, MB, VR); Buck Pnd, G 17 Oct (JeB, MBa); Geneseo Airfield 8 Nov (JKi), seen again 9 Nov (TBo, BCar), Reg record late.
Fox Sparrow: arr M – Owl Woods & Barry Property, T Clarendon GENE 11 Oct; max 12 Wright Rd, T Savannah WAYN 13 Nov (MJ, BHa, JHu).
Song Sparrow: max 55 Beechwood SP WAYN 9 Oct (TLe); total b 35 BBBO 2 Sep – 26 Oct.
Lincoln’s Sparrow: arr Lake Rd, W 11 Sep; total B 8 BBBO 11-29 Sep; last Beatty Pt, G 23)ct (JeB, CW).
White-throated Sparrow: arr G 8 Sep (KG); 120 Beechwood SP WAYN 19 Sep (TLe); max 200 Beechwood SP, WAYN 9 Oct (TLe); max b 81 BBBO 24 Sep; 67 b BBBO 4 Oct; total b 764 BBBO 14 Sep – 31 Oct; Nov max 40 Beechwood SP, WAYN 7 Nov (TLe).
White-crowned Sparrow: arr 2 Palmer Farms ORLE 22 Sep. **Dark-eyed Junco:** arr T Irondequoit 9 Sep; max 100 Webster Arboretum 23 Oct (RR, ET); total b 22 BBBO 2-29 Oct.
Bobolink: last 2 NMWMW (VDSRd) 29 Sep.
Eastern Meadowlark: last T Bloomfield ONTA 8 Nov (L&PK).
Baltimore Oriole: last 2 Northampton P, T Ogden 27 Sep (AS).
Red-winged Blackbird: max 5000 NMWMW (VDSRd) 24 Sep (BCar).
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 400 NMWMW (VDSRd) 17 Sep (TLe).
Rusty Blackbird: arr NMWMW (SCU) 23 Sep; max 90 Geneseo Airfield 9 Nov (TBo, BCar).
Common Grackle: max 5000 Rochester 21 Oct (ML).
blackbird sp.: max 10,000 NMWMW (SCU) 23 Sep (JMcG).
Ovenbird: total b 18 BBBO 2-27 Sep; last Hemlock L ONTA 12 Oct (KA).
Worm-eating Warbler: 1 ea b BBBO 14; 19 Sep, very rare in fall.
Northern Waterthrush: total b 6 BBBO 2-25 Sep; HANA 5 Oct.
Blue-winged Warbler: last 1b BBBO 1 Oct.
Black-and-white Warbler: last Fairport 2 Oct.

Prothonotary Warbler: 1b BBBO 2 Sep, rare in fall.

Tennessee Warbler: total b 12 BBBO 6-21 Sep, 12 Oct; last Churchville dam MONR 26 Nov (PI, ph), Reg record late.

Orange-crowned Warbler: total 21 ind 21 loc 15 Sep – 30 Oct, good number, none banded.

Nashville Warbler: total b 27 BBBO 4-24 Sep, 3, 16 Oct; last BB – ES 28 Oct (JSI).

Connecticut Warbler: Beechwood SP WAYN 24 Sep (JWi); TCEA 25 Oct (BCar, MW); 1 ea b BBBO 15, 16, 24, 26 Sep, 1 Oct; high number of reps.

Mourning Warbler: last Durand-Eastman P

17 Oct (GL, ph), Reg record late.

Common Yellowthroat: max 20 Honeoye L WMA 8 Sep (BHo); total b 58 BBBO 1 Sep – 3 Oct; last 2 CL Inlet WMA LVI 17 Nov (OA), late.

Hooded Warbler: last Fawn Ridge, T Bristol ONTA 11 Oct (KK).

American Redstart: total b 59 BBBO 1-28 Sep. 1 Oct; last singles 3 loc 3 Oct (mob).

Cape May Warbler: last Hogan Pt, G 24 Oct (DTe).

Northern Parula: total b 22 BBBO 1 Sep – 4 Oct; max 19 Beechwood SP WAYN 12 Sep (TLe, DW); last Durand-Eastman P 9 Nov (SG), late.

Magnolia Warbler: max b 25 BBBO 15 Sep; total b 213 BBBO 1 Sep – 4 Oct; last Chimney Bluffs WAYN 24 Oct (DW).

Bay-breasted Warbler: max 22 Webster P – campground 12 Sep (AGa); total b 73 BBBO 2 Sep – 5 Oct; last 2 Casey P, T Ontario WAYN 8 Oct (JWi).

Blackburnian Warbler: last 1b BBBO 4 Oct.

Yellow Warbler: last HANA 9 Oct (MBr), late.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: total b 11 BBBO 1-25 Sep; last TCEA 6 Oct (BCar).

Blackpoll Warbler: max b 34 BBBO 26 Sep; max 20 BB – ES 4 Oct (JiM, LM); total b 417 BBBO 2 Sep – 20 Oct; 1 recap BBBO 29 Oct; last MP – Quaker Pd 27 Nov (AS, ph), Reg record late.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: total b 56 BBBO 2 Sep – 6 Oct, 20, 24 Oct.

Palm Warbler: arr OB 7 Sep (AGu); last HANA 21 Oct (DSh).

Pine Warbler: max 15 DEP 3 Sep (ET); last Webster P 21 Oct (SG).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 54 BB-ES 3 Oct (GL); total b 33 BBBO 15 Sep – 14 Oct; 35 rep, ~ 43 ind 23 loc Nov (24+ obs), many lingering late.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (R2):

Lakeview Community Church & Firehouse trails, G 5, 6, 12 Sep (JCu, JGa, JiM, LM); Grandview Heights, G 15 Sep (KG), possibly same ind.

Prairie Warbler: Nunda-Dalton Rd LIVI 19 Sep (JGo); N Wolcott WAYN 19 Sep (W&MR); scarce in fall.

Black-throated Green Warbler: total b 27 BBBO 1 – 9 Oct; last BB – WS 23 Oct (BriM).

Canada Warbler: last CL Inlet WMA 18 Sep.

Wilson's Warbler: total b 28 BBBO 9-26 Sep; last HANA 9 Oct (DSh).

Scarlet Tanager: last Beechwood SP WAYN 9 Oct (TLe).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last HB – YC 6 Oct (AGu).

Indigo Bunting: last Beatty Pt, G 23 Oct (JeB, CW), late.

Dickcissel: T Livonia LIVI 28 Oct (TBo, ph), rare.

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REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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In Ithaca, the average high temperature in September was 71.6° F, 0.5° above normal. The average low temperature was 46.7°, 2.3° below normal. Total rainfall was 1.82", 1.87" less than normal. Cold fronts passed through the Region September 12, 15, 19, and 30. In October, the average high temperature was 58.9°, 0.1° below normal, and the average low was 49.7°, 1.0° above normal. Total precipitation was 3.70", 0.28" more than normal. Cold

fronts passed through on October 9, 12, 17, 25, and 31. The average high temperature in November was 52.6°, 5.1° above normal, and the average low was 33.1°, 1.4° above normal. Total precipitation was 2.31", 0.85" less than normal. Total snowfall was 1.8", 2.7" less than normal. There were two days with measurable snow cover with a maximum depth of 2" on 19 November. Cold fronts passed through on November 12, 17, 22, 24, and 28.

The cold front on 25 October pushed large numbers of Canada Geese and many Brant and Common Loons southward. The front on 24 November also prompted a large migration of Canada Geese with a high count of 20,000 reported over the Town of Van Etten. Other high counts reported for waterfowl species were four Greater White-fronted Geese, 30 Trumpeter Swans, 400 Northern Shovelers, 180 Buffleheads, 290 Hooded Mergansers, and 360 Common Mergansers. Waterfowl rarities included **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** that appeared at two locations in early September and at another in late October. Ross's Geese were at two locations in late November. The only Greater White-fronted Geese were at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge in late November.

Montezuma NWR continues to be a late fall gathering place for Sandhill Cranes, with a high count of 187 in 2020. The only unusual count of shorebirds was the low count of five American Golden-Plovers. The variety was good with 28 species reported. Rarities included Ruddy Turnstones, Red Knots, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, and Red-necked Phalaropes in early September, a Whimbrel and Red Phalarope in mid-September, and American Avocets and Hudsonian Godwits in late September.

A high count of 32 Caspian Terns was reported at Montezuma NWR in early September. The last report of Caspian Tern was 12 October, a late departure date. The season's first report of Iceland Gull came on the late date of 19 November. The best bird of the season was an immature **Long-tailed Jaeger** first spotted by Jay McGowan and Ken Rosenberg over Northeast Ithaca and then by Tristan Herwood and Chris Sayers from Bluegrass Lane Natural Area in early September. This appears to be the third record for the Region. Chris Wood observed one at Myers Point 26 August 2010. Cornell University has a specimen of one that was found in Ithaca 8 March 1942 (Chao 2010: Region 3—Finger Lakes. *The Kingbird* 60: 329).

Four American Bitterns and 50 Black-crowned Night-Herons, all at Montezuma NWR, were high counts. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was in Penn Yan 4 October, but found dead five days later, apparently electrocuted on power lines.

The season's first cold front produced a flight of 1500 Broad-winged Hawks over the Town of Lansing on 12 September. Four Black Vultures in the Town of Erwin in late September was a fall high count. Five Barred Owls in the Town of Caroline and four Short-eared Owls in the Town of Phelps were high counts.

Ten Belted Kingfishers at Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve and 12 Red-bellied Woodpeckers in the Town of Caroline were high counts. The last report of Red-headed Woodpecker came from the Town of Erwin in mid-September.

It took only two Alder Flycatchers to be a high count for that species. Late departures were the story for flycatchers. The last date for Eastern Kingbird was 3 October; for Least Flycatcher, 11 October; for Great Crested Flycatcher, 4 November; and for Eastern Wood-pewee, 5 November.

The count of four Yellow-throated Vireos at Montezuma NWR was high. A Philadelphia Vireo on 12 October and a Blue-headed Vireo on 10 November were late. John Garrett found a White-eyed Vireo at Sullivanville Dam in early October.

The high count of 100 Fish Crows at Geneva was remarkable for being in the northern part of the Region where the species' occurrence has been relatively recent. Robert Buckert

and Jules Wagner found and photographed a **Cave Swallow** at Almond Lake in early November. This was probably the first record of the species in Steuben County.

Poor cone crops in Canada pushed large numbers of Black-capped Chickadees and Red-breasted Nuthatches southward. This was reflected in high counts for both species; William Evans counted 417 Black-capped Chickadees migrating past a location in the Town of Danby, and Chris Wood counted 32 Red-breasted Nuthatches in Bear Swamp State Forest. Jeff Gerbracht's 21 Tufted Titmice at Durland Preserve was also a high count.

Sedge Wrens occurred at multiple locations in Tompkins County. The last on 20 October was a late report for the Region. A Marsh Wren at Montezuma NWR on 28 November was also late. Days after counting hundreds of chickadees, William Evans counted 2370 American Robins migrating by the same location in the Town of Danby. Bill Brown turned in high counts of 120 House Sparrows in the Town of Torrey and 800 American Pipits in the Town of Benton.

All species of winter finches were reported in the Region. Counts of 150 Purple Finches, 180 Common Redpolls, 120 Red Crossbills, and 150 Pine Siskins were all high counts. A Pine Grosbeak was at Summerhill State Forest in late November. A Hoary Redpoll was in the Town of Fayette in mid-November and another was at Mount Pleasant in late November.

Late occurrences of sparrows included a Grasshopper Sparrow at Dryden Lake on 15 October, Field Sparrows at Bluegrass Lane Natural Area and in the Town of Ovid on 29 November, and White-crowned Sparrows in the Town of Ovid on 29 Ovid. A Clay-colored Sparrow was at Reynolds State Game Farm in mid-October. A Bobolink at Montezuma NWR was late on 22 October.

High counts of Warblers were two Northern Waterthrushes in Sapsucker Woods and 21 Tennessee Warblers at Long Point (Yates County). Late departures were numerous: Golden-winged Warbler on 2 October; Bay-breasted Warbler and Black-throated Blue Warbler on 22 October; Chestnut-sided Warbler on 27 October; Black-and-white Warbler on 29 October; Wilson's Warbler on 31 October; American Redstart, Blackpoll Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, and Black-throated Green Warbler on 1 November; Cape May Warbler on 4 November; Northern Parula on 9 November; and Tennessee Warbler on 27 November.

A **Summer Tanager** was at Durland Preserve in late October. The season's only Dickcissel was at Bluegrass Lane Natural Area in mid-October.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BL – Beebe L, TOMP; **BDT** – Black Diamond Trail, TOMP; **BLNA** – Bluegrass Lane Natural Area, TOMP; **CygL** – Cayuga L; **DP** – Durland Pres, TOMP; **EFGA** – Etna Fringed Gentian Area, TOMP; **FLNF** – Finger Lakes National Forest, SENE; **HH** – Hog Hole, TOMP; **LPBP** – Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Pres, TOMP; **LP** – Long Pt, YATE; **LPNA** – Lighthouse Pt Natural Area, TOMP; **LPSP** – Long Pt SP; **MNWR** – Montezuma NWR; **MR** – Monkey Run, TOMP; **MtP** – Mt Pleasant, TOMP; **MyPt** – Myers Pt, TOMP; **NEI** – Northeast Ithaca, TOMP; **PW** – Palmer Woods, TOMP; **RHPP** – Roy H P Pres, TOMP; **SLSP** – Seneca L SP; **SPNA** – Salt Pt Natural Area, TOMP; **SSSF** – Summerhill State Forest, CAYU; **SSP** – Sampson SP; **StP** – Stewart P, TOMP; **SW** – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; **TCar** – T Caroline, TOMP; **TDan** – T Danby, TOMP; **TDry** – T Dryden, TOMP; **TFay** – T Fayette, SENE; **THec** – T Hector, SCHU; **Tlth** – T Ithaca, TOMP; **TOv** – T Ovid, SENE; **TTyr** – T Tyre, SENE; **TVE** – T Van Etten, CHEM.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK:

arr TDry 6 Sep (NM, ph); max 4 MNWR 9 Sep (JKi, ph; TLe, ph; SPo, ph); last 3 Hanley Biological Field Preserve SENE 28 Oct (AFa, ph; JM, ph).

Snow Goose: arr 24 PW 27 Oct, late; max 2600 TFay 28 Nov.

Ross's Goose: T Varick SENE 27 Nov; 2 TFay 28 Nov.

Greater White-fronted Goose: arr MNWR 28 Nov, late; max 4 MNWR 29 Nov (GD, JGK), high.

Brant: arr 30 CygL TOMP 12 Oct; 19 MyPt 12 Oct; max 450 TTyr 24 Oct; last 32 Kendal at Ithaca 24 Nov; TCar 24 Nov.

Cackling Goose: arr MNWR 26 Sep; max 19 MNWR 29 Nov.

Barnacle X Cackling Goose (hybrid):

MNWR 31 Oct-29 Nov (mob, ph).

Canada Goose: max 20,000 TVE 24 Nov (JCor), high.

Snow X Canada Goose (hybrid): LPNA 8 Nov (KR!).

Trumpeter Swan: max 30 TTyr 24 Oct (JM, LSa), high.

Tundra Swan: arr 2 MNWR 27 Oct; max 650 MNWR 28 Nov.

Blue-winged Teal: max 300 MNWR 10 Sep; last 2 MNWR 20 Nov.

Northern Shoveler: max 400 MNWR 24 Oct (David Siena), high.

Eurasian Wigeon: arr MNWR 10 Sep; max 2 MNWR 13 & 18 Sep; last MNWR 26 Oct.
Ring-necked Duck: arr 7 MNWR 8 Sep; max 1700 MNWR 21 Nov.
Redhead X scaup sp. (hybrid): 2 MNWR 14 Nov (JM, ph; LSa).
Surf Scoter: arr Long Pt SP 6 Oct; max 11 StP 6 Nov; last 3 StP 26 Nov (JM); 2 MyPt 26 Nov (JM), late.
White-winged Scoter: arr SLSP 4 Oct; max 20 Geneva 18 Nov.
Black Scoter: arr 3 Seneca Yacht Club SENE 4 Oct; max 38 StP 1 Nov.
Long-tailed Duck: arr 5 SLSP 28 Oct; max 7 Taughannock Falls SP 12 Nov; 7 SLSP SENE 22 Nov.
Bufflehead: arr SLSP 28 Oct; max 180 SLSP 22 Nov (DWa), high.
Common Goldeneye: arr 5 StP 25 Oct; max 20 Wyers Pt SENE 28 Nov.
Hooded Merganser: max 290 LPNA 18 Nov (JD, AD), high.
Common Merganser: max 360 MNWR 13 Nov (DSH, MT), high.
Red-breasted Merganser: arr T Varick SENE 18 Sep; max 15 SLSP 16 Nov.
Ruffed Grouse: max 7 Ridgway Road Rail Trail 13 Sep (JGa, BR), high.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last TTYr 8 Oct.
Black-billed Cuckoo: last TITH 1 Oct.
Common Nighthawk: max 9 MNWR 4 Sep; last 2 MNWR 28 Sep; TTYr 28 Sep.
Chimney Swift: max 70 One Franklin Square ONTA 3 Sep; last MNWR 4 Oct.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 11 BLNA 5 Sep; last Cornell University 2 Oct.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Virginia Rail: max 3 MNWR 10 Sep; 3 MNWR 17 Sep; last MNWR 8 Nov.
Sora: max 4 MNWR 13 Sep; last MNWR 18 Oct.
Common Gallinule: max 100 MNWR 15 Sep; last HH 10 Nov.
Sandhill Crane: max 187 MNWR 28 Nov (JM), high.
American Avocet: 3 MyPt 29 Sep (mob, ph).
Black-bellied Plover: max 13 Herwood's Hollow TOMP 24 Oct; last MyPt 2 Nov; PW 2 Nov.
American Golden-Plover: max 5 King Ferry CAYU 12 Oct, low; last 2 TFay 6 Nov.
Semipalmated Plover: max 40 MNWR 19 Sep; last Seneca L YATE 11 Oct.
Killdeer: max 100 Paines Creek CAYU 9 Sep; last Champlin Beach STEU 20 Nov.

Whimbrel: LP 19 Sep.
Hudsonian Godwit: max 3 MNWR 22 Sep; last MNWR 29 Sep.
Ruddy Turnstone: SLSP SENE 2-5 Sep; Elmira Holiday Inn CHEM 3 Sep.
Red Knot: 1-2 SLSP SENE 1-7 Sep.
Stilt Sandpiper: max 4 MNWR 27 Sep; last MNWR 3 Oct.
Sanderling: max 10 Senecs L SP SENE 13 Sep; last SLSP 28 Oct.
Dunlin: arr 12 MNWR 3 Oct; max 112 HH 25 Oct.
Baird's Sandpiper: max 2 Risser Road Swamp ONTA 1 Sep; 2 MNWR 6 Sep; 2 MNWR 10 Sep; last MNWR 21 Sep.
Least Sandpiper: max 75 MNWR 1 Sep; last SLSP 17 Oct.
White-rumped Sandpiper: max 3 MNWR 6 Sep; last MNWR 30 Nov (MG, BWol), late.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: MNWR 6-8 Sep.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 70 MNWR 18 Sep; last SW 9 Nov.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 120 MNWR 6 Sep; last 2 MNWR 18 Oct.
Short-billed Dowitcher: max 12 MNWR 28 Sep; last 2 MNWR 29 Sep.
Long-billed Dowitcher: max 25 MNWR 13 Nov; last 12 MNWR 15 Nov.
American Woodcock: max 6 TDry 24 Sep; last T Tuscarors STEU 26 Nov.
Wilson's Snipe: max 5 MNWR 30 Oct; last BLNA 6 Nov.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 5 T Canandaigua ONTA 1 Sep; last Ithaca 8 Nov (NT!), late.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 15 LPBP 1 Sep; last SLSP 7 Nov (DWa, ph), late.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 80 MNWR 5 Sep; last MNWR 13 Nov.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 96 MNWR 15 Sep; last 3 MNWR 28 Nov (LSu, AY!), late.
Red-necked Phalarope: 1-2 MNWR 5-7 Sep.
Red Phalarope: LP 11 Sep; StP 19 Sep.
LONG-TAILED JAEGER : NEI 8 Sep (JM!, ph; KR!).
Iceland Gull: arr Seneca L SCHU 19 Nov, late.
Caspian Tern: max 32 MNWR 3 Sep (TLe), high; last CygL TOMP 12 Oct (JM, ph), late.
Black Tern: max 14 MyPt 2 Sep; last Long Pt SP 6 Sep.
Common Tern: max & last 2 StP 5 Oct.
Forster's Tern: CygL TOMP 5 Sep.

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: arr Cass P TOMP 24 Oct; max 7 German Brothers Marina ONTA 12 Nov.

American Bittern: max 4 MNWR 20 Sep (Lance Verderame), high; last Allan H Treman State Marine P TOMP 30 Oct.

Least Bittern: max 2 MNWR 10 Sep; last TDry 24 Sep.

Great Egret: max 69 MNWR 17 Sep; last 2 MNWR 24 Oct.

Green Heron: max 11 Hile School Road Wetland TOMP 9 Sep; last SLSP 21 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 50 MNWR 14 Sep (MoJ), high.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Penn Yan Village Boat Launch YATE 4 Oct (mob, ph); Indian Pnes P YATE 9 Oct (BBr, ph).

Black Vulture: max 4 T Erwin STEU 23 Sep (BiH!), high.

Osprey: max 5 MNWR 6 Sep; last MNWR 7 Nov.

Golden Eagle: arr Gleason Meadows CHEM 10 Oct; max 2 NEI 25 Oct.

Red-shouldered Hawk: max 8 MtP 25 Oct (mob).

Broad-winged Hawk: max 1500 T Lansing TOMP 12 Sep. last MtP 3 Oct.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr TDry 7 Oct; max 2 MtP 25 Oct.

Snowy Owl: arr Seneca Yacht Club SENE 15 Nov.

Barred Owl: max 5 TCar 13 Oct (JCon), high.

Short-eared Owl: arr BLNA 24 Oct; max 4 T Phelps ONTA 14 Nov (MMi), high.

Belted Kingfisher: max 10 LPBP 1 Sep (BrH, JS), high.

Red-headed Woodpecker: last T Erwin STEU 19-20 Sep.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 12 TCar 21 Oct (SKe), high.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: last BDT 4 Nov (DN, ph), late.

Eastern Kingbird: last TOv 3 Oct (RSt!), late..

Olive-sided Flycatcher: max 2 West Bluff YATE 10 Sep; last TCar 16 Sep.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: max 6 TVE 10 Sep; last BDT 5 Nov (JGa, ph; JM, ph), late.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 2 LP 19 Sep; last BLNA 6 Oct.

Alder Flycatcher: max & last 2 TCar 5 Sep (JF), high.

Willow Flycatcher: last TOv 16 Sep.

Least Flycatcher: max 4 Willard WMA SENE 5 Sep; 4 Edwards L Cliffs Preserve TOMP 8 Sep; last Queen Catharine Marsh SCHU 11 Oct (JGa, ph; MSi), late.

Eastern Phoebe: max 12 Sullivanville Dam CHEM 11 Oct; last Frontenac Pt SENE 14 Nov.

Northern Shrike: arr T Ledyard CAYU 6 Oct.

White-eyed Vireo: Sullivanville Dam CHEM 4 Oct (JGa, ph).

Yellow-throated Vireo: max 4 MNWR 6 Sep (JM, DrWe), high; last T Niles CAYU 26 Sep.

Blue-headed Vireo: max 6 BLNA 26 Sep; last SLSP 10 Nov (TLe!), late.

Philadelphia Vireo: max 8 HH 20 Sep (JGa), high; last BL 12 Oct (EL!), late.

Warbling Vireo: max 12 SLSP 9-10 Sep; last HH 3 Oct.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 30 LPNA 10 Sep; last T Starkey YATE 22 Oct; Tlth 22 Oct.

Fish Crow: max 100 One Franklin Square ONTA 12 Oct (TLe), high.

Purple Martin: max 80 MNWR 10 Sep; last 3 MNWR 19 Sep.

Tree Swallow: max 10,000 MNWR 10 Sep; last Lansing Center Trail TOMP 12 Nov.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: max 15 MNWR 2 Sep; last 2 Verdi Burtch Bird Refuge 14 Oct.

Bank Swallow: max 300 MNWR 13 Sep; last 130 MNWR 29 Sep.

Cliff Swallow: last MNWR 6 Sep.

CAVE SWALLOW: Almond L STEU 1 Nov (RB, ph; JWa).

Barn Swallow: max 200 MNWR 5 Sep; last 6 MNWR 26 Oct.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 417 TDan 21 Oct (WE), high.

Tufted Titmouse: max 21 DP 29 Oct (JGe), high.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 32 Bear Swamp State Forest CAYU 11 Oct (CW), high.

House Wren: max 8 Kashong Conservation Area ONTA 6 Sep; 8 Edwards L Cliffs Preserve TOMP 12 Sep.

Sedge Wren: max 5 EFga 15 Sep (JGa, ph); last TDry 20 Oct (TH!), late.

Marsh Wren: max 19 MNWR 19 Sep (SO), high; last MNWR 28 Nov (JM, LSA), late.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 2 SPNA 2 Sep; 2 BDT 8 Sep; last Little Salmon Creek CAYU 2 Oct.

Veery: max 30 MtP11 Sep, nocturnal; last Mundy Wildflower Garden TOMP 27 Sep.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr TCar 8 Sep; max 15 NEI 17 & 29 Sep, nocturnal; last MR 11 Oct; BL 11 Oct.

Swainson's Thrush: max 400 MtP 11 Sep, nocturnal; last NEI 22 Oct, nocturnal; Corning Community College 22 Oct.

Hermit Thrush: max 37 NEI 20 Oct, nocturnal; last Last Stand Meadow TOMP 28 Nov (CH), late.

Wood Thrush: max 18 NEI 17 Sep, nocturnal; last MR 20 Oct.

American Robin: max 2370 TDan 26 Oct (WE), high.

Gray Catbird: max 30 MNWR 16 Sep; last SW 27 Nov.

Brown Thrasher: max 4 LPBP 6 & 15 Sep; 4 Kashong Conservation Area ONTA 16 Sep; last Tlth 23 Oct.

House Sparrow: max 120 T Torrey YATE 20 Nov (BBr), high.

American Pipit: arr TDan 17 Sep; max 800 T Benton YATE 19 Oct (BBr), high.

Evening Grosbeak: arr 2 TDry 24 Sep; max 40 TVE 7 Nov.

Pine Grosbeak: SSF 22 Nov (MY).

Purple Finch: max 151 TDan 23 Oct (WE), high.

Common Redpoll: arr T Phelps YATE 29 Oct; max 180 SSF 22 Nov (PR, Matt Young), high.

Hoary Redpoll: TFay 20 Nov (Dave Kennedy, ph); MtP 26 Nov (Jeremy Collison!).

Red Crossbill: arr 4 Cornell Botanic Garden TOMP 6 Sep (Jalen Winstanley!), early; max 120 SSF 22 Nov (PR, MY), high.

White-winged Crossbill: arr Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP 7 Nov; max 11 SSF 22 Nov.

Pine Siskin: arr RHPP 18 Sep; max 150 Ithaca 13 Oct (AD), high.

Lapland Longspur: arr TFay 20 Oct; max 7 MNWR 31 Oct.

Snow Bunting: arr MNWR 13 Oct (RM!), early; max 150 Savannah Mucklands SENE 12 Nov.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: max 20 Arnot Forest TOMP 3 Oct; FLNF SENE 14 Nov.

American Tree Sparrow: arr Steam Mill Fen TOMP 17 Oct; max 20 MNWR 8 Nov.

Chipping Sparrow: max 50 SSP 18 Sep; 50 Robert Trent Jones Golf Course TOMP 22 Sep.

Clay-colored Sparrow: Reynolds State Game Farm TOMP 16 Oct (JCon!).

Field Sparrow: max 30 FLNF SENE 18 Sep; last 2 BLNA 29 Nov (TSc!); TOv 29 Nov (RS!), late.

Vesper Sparrow: max & last 6 T Romulus SENE 28 Oct.

Savannah Sparrow: max 20 TFay 9 Sep; 20 T Lansing TOMP 15 Sep; 20 BLNA 19 Sep; 20 Cornell University 27 Sep; last BL 13 Nov.

Grasshopper Sparrow: last Dryden L TOMP 15 Oct (CW!), late.

Nelson's Sparrow: arr BLNA 26 Sep; last Owasco L Inlet CAYU 23 Oct.

Fox Sparrow: arr TCar 9 Oct; max 18 FLNF SENE 31 Oct; 18 TDry 1 Nov.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Carriage House Apartments TOMP 2 Sep; max 5 LP 20 Sep; 5 EFGA 1 Oct; last THeC 6 Nov.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr SW 21 Sep; max 27 BLNA 14 Oct; last 2 TOv 29 Nov (RS!), late.

Bobolink: max 100 MNWR 6 Sep; last MNWR 22 Oct (Richard Garrigus, ph), late.

Eastern Meadowlark: max 24 TDry 20 Oct; last Gleason Meadows CHEM 7 Nov.

Baltimore Oriole: last SPNA 8 Nov (SY), late.

Rusty Blackbird: arr StP 21 Sep; max 75 Hile School Road Wetland TOMP 22 Oct.

Ovenbird: max 4 Genung Nature Preserve TOMP 7 Sep; 4 Danby State Forest TOMP 12 Sep; last TCar 16 Oct.

Northern Waterthrush: max 2 SW 17-18 Sep (HF, HG, CTH), high; last StP 30 Sep.

Golden-winged Warbler: TVE 8 Sep; TCar 2 Oct (Ske!), late.

Blue-winged Warbler: last T Farmington ONTA 22 Sep.

"Brewster's" Warbler: THeC 10 Sep (KH, ph).

Black-and-white Warbler: max 8 TVE 9 Sep; last HH 29 Oct (JGa, ph; CH), late.

Tennessee Warbler: max 21 LP 20 Sep (DWa), high; last THeC 27 Nov (NS!), late.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr SLSP 20 Sep; max 2 LP 20 Sep; 2 BL 13 Oct; 2 PW 15 Oct; last T Waterloo SENE 31 Oct.

Nashville Warbler: max 13 SPNA 4 Sep (DT); 13 LP 20 Sep (DWa), high; last PW 31 Oct.

Connecticut Warbler: HH 4 Sep; TVE 9 Sep; Greensprings Natural Cemetery Preserve TOMP 20 Sep; MyPt 22 Sep.

Mourning Warbler: last Comstock Knoll TOMP 2 Oct.

Common Yellowthroat: max 24 RHPP 12 Sep; last MNWR 14 Nov.

Hooded Warbler: max 3 MR 11 Sep; 3 Danby State Forest TOMP 12 Sep; last Owasco L Inlet Area 6 Oct.

American Redstart: max 7 Ridgeway Road Rail Trail TOMP 13 Sep; last SPNA 1 Nov (JM, ph), late.

Cape May Warbler: max 12 RHPP 16 Sep; last LPNA 4 Nov (JM!), late.

Cerulean Warbler: TDry 8 Sep (NBa, ph).

Northern Parula: max 10 SSP 18 Sep; last 2 SPNA 9 Nov (SPo, ph), late.

Magnolia Warbler: max 15 RHPP 12 Sep; 15 RHPP 16 Sep; last HH 21 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: max 8 SSP 18 Sep; last HH 22 Oct (mob, ph), late.

Blackburnian Warbler: max 6 TDry 22 Sep; 6 TVE 11 Sep; last SPNA 1 Nov (JM, ph), late.

Yellow Warbler: max 5 StP 22 Sep; last Ithaca 19 Oct.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 4 TVE 9 Sep; last EFGA 27 Oct (JGa, ph), late.

Blackpoll Warbler: max 26 LP 20 Sep (DWa), late; last SPNA 1 Nov (JM, ph), late.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 5 LPBP 14 Sep; last TIth 22 Oct (PH, TH!), late.

Palm Warbler: arr StP 4 Sep (CZ!), early; max 17 BLNA 26 Sep; last LPNA 3 Nov.

Pine Warbler: max 8 Robert Trent Jones Golf Course TOMP 15 Sep; last LP 20 Oct; SPCA Fields TOMP 20 Oct.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 100 SW 1 Oct (Brad Walker), high; last 3 TFay 26 Nov.

Prairie Warbler: max 10 LPBP 3 Sep (JCu, JGa, BR), high; last SPNA 24 Sep.

Black-throated Green Warbler: max 14 Buttermilk Falls SP 30 Sep; last StP 1 Nov (mob, ph), late.

Canada Warbler: max 2 TDry 9 Sep; last Lagoon P ONTA 18 Sep.

Wilson's Warbler: max 4 Robert Trent Jones Golf Course TOMP 12 Sep; 4 HH 20 Sep; last SLSP 31 Oct (HK, FK, ph), late.

SUMMER TANAGER (R3): DP 26-30 Oct (mob, ph).

Scarlet Tanager: max 7 DP 11 Sep; last T Ulysses TOMP 9 Oct.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 40 NEI 14 Sep, nocturnal; last T Ithaca 22 Oct.

Indigo Bunting: max 3 Sweedler Lick Brook Preserve TOMP 18 Sep; 3 TCar 19 Sep; last LPNA 31 Oct.

Dickcissel: BLNA 20 Oct (mob, ph).

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REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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September 2020 was slightly warmer and somewhat drier than normal. October was above average regarding temperature and wetter than average. November was about 4.5° warmer than average, and slightly drier than normal. In fact, November was the seventh warmest since 1951 which is when the current period of record-keeping started.

This year's Golden Eagle total of 187 for the fall migration at Franklin Mountain was slightly better than the long-term average, with the highest counts coming in November. Raptor species with above average numbers were Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, and Broad-winged Hawk. The total Broad-winged Hawk count was 2,951, which is 92% above average. Andy Mason, who heads the Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch, reports that the Bald Eagle count set a record for Franklin Mountain with a total of 248 for the season. However Red-tailed Hawk numbers continue to drop with a 60% decrease from the average. This is, of course, very puzzling since Red-tailed Hawks seem relatively common. Andy reports, "It is little consolation, but other sites such as Hawk Mountain and Waggoner's Gap in Pennsylvania, Derby Hill on Lake Ontario and Pack Monadnock in New Hampshire have also experienced precipitous drops, and all-time or near lows in Red-

tail numbers.” However, in total, 5,438 raptors were counted, which is above the average for the FMHW. If you need more statistics regarding raptors, you can refer to the species list following the narrative and to the new chart showing maximums and first arrival dates.

In Tioga County Adam Troyer was also counting migratory birds that flew over his farm. On 14 September he counted 1,300 Broad-winged Hawks, 19 American Kestrels, and 11 Sharp-shinned Hawks. He also saw 204 Common Loons on 14 November. His family’s farm is called Birdsong Meadows Farm for good reason.

Black, Surf, and White-winged Scoters were all reported in the Region in October. Then, on 8 November, David Nicosia discovered a female-type King Eider in the Whitney Point Reservoir visible from Keibel Road. The bird was diving fairly close to shore which made for good views for the many birders who came to see this inland rarity. It remained in this same location till 11 November, apparently staying because it enjoyed the local crayfish; one observer saw the eider eat two in the hour that he was there. This was the first eBird record for this species for the Region.

An immature ibis was discovered by Jon Weeks on 27 September behind the Binghamton Plaza where the Chenango River widens out, and so can be a good place to find shorebirds. At first this bird was thought to be a Glossy Ibis since it seemed that for an immature ibis, eye color was definitive in regard to species. Many excellent photos were taken, but after much consultation the ibis was deemed to be a Glossy/White-faced Ibis. The species remained unknown, but the bird was still observed and photographed by many during its 20-day stay in Binghamton.

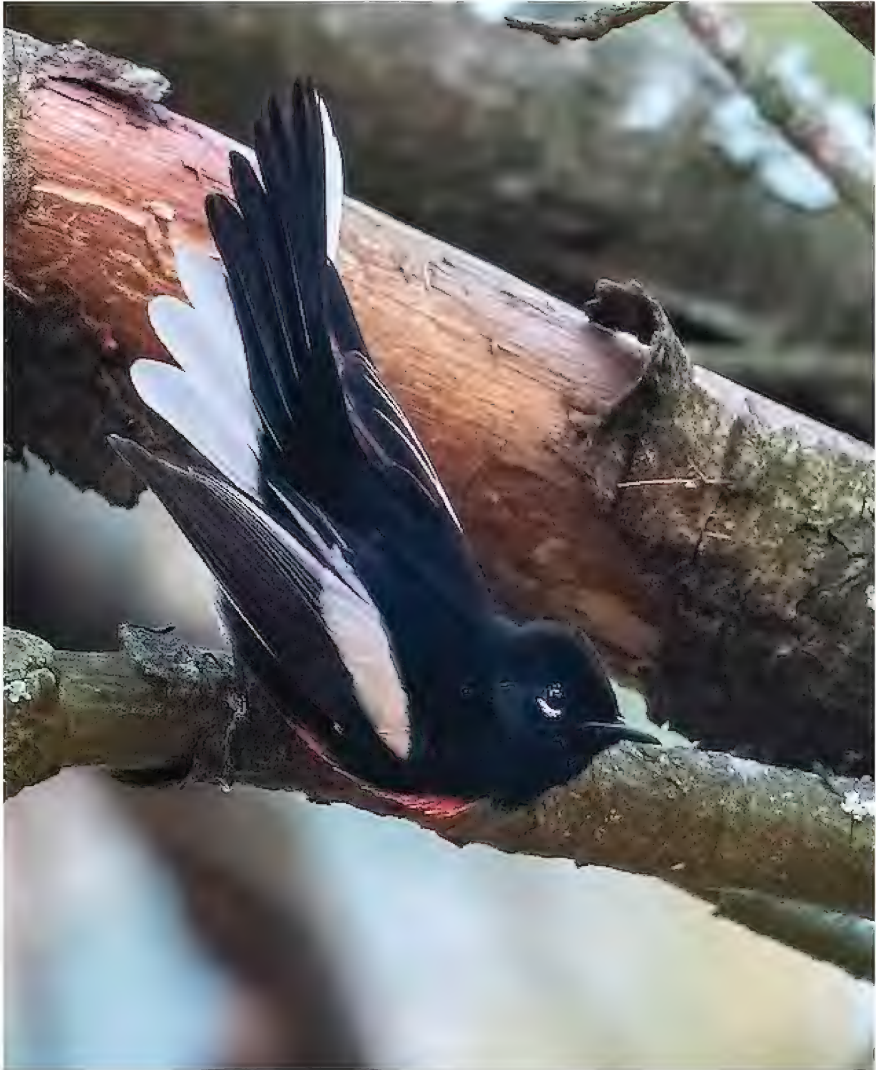
In Chenango County, 21 Sandhill Cranes were seen and photographed flying or at least attempting to fly over a marshy area in Sherburne in November. According to Mike DeWispelaere, “Big surprise was a flyover flock of Sandhill Crane fighting against the south winds...they kept pushing on despite the slow progress. My first sighting of a migrating flock in the county.”

Regarding shorebirds, a Hudsonian Godwit was sighted on 11 September at Dorchester Park by David Nicosia. This was the first eBird record for the Region though there have been sightings in nearby Tompkins County and at Montezuma NWR. Later in the season the Whitney Point Reservoir’s water level was lowered for dam maintenance so this created good shorebird habitat along Dorchester Park (southern part of the reservoir), Keibel Road (western section), and Upper Lisle County Park (the northern section). As a result there were good numbers (for the Region) of American Golden-Plover, Black-bellied Plover, Dunlin, Greater Yellowlegs, White-rumped Sandpiper (2), and other species. Even a Franklin’s Gull was spotted on the mudflats.

A **Say’s Phoebe** was seen by Adam Troyer on 23 September on his farm in Tioga County, and this bird was seen and photographed by others. However, it only was observed that one day. This was the second year in a row in which a Say’s Phoebe was found on his farm, and is the only record in eBird for the Region for this species.

First came the Red-breasted Nuthatches and Pine Siskins in good numbers. Then Evening Grosbeaks were reported in October both at feeders, and in the field foraging on box elder seeds. Red Crossbills and Common Redpolls were observed in the Region in November with maximum counts. Also noted in October were a large number of Black-capped Chickadees which were seen at Dorchester Park by at least six different observers. Estimates ranged from 45 to 600 chickadees at the park; normally one might expect to see ten to fifteen. It is not certain how widespread this movement was or if any other Regions experienced something similar. This was plainly an irruption year for many species.

PHOTO GALLERY
FALL 2020



Painted Redstart, Floyd Bennett Field, *Kings*, 18 Oct 2020, © Donna Schulman.



Two of Fall 2020's rarest birds belonged to cryptic species-pairs and were provisionally identified to species by careful study, recording, and analysis of vocalizations, pending review. Top: New York State's first Tropical Kingbird, Dobbs Ferry, *Westchester*, 28 Oct 2020 © Tom Warren. Bottom: Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Kissena Park, *Queens*, 3 Nov 2020, © Michael Zito.



Say's Phoebe, Birdsong Meadows Farm, Candor, *Tioga*, 23 Sep 2020, © Gary Kohlenberg.



Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Ashokan Reservoir, *Ulster*, 18 Oct 2020 © Jay McGowan.



Sage Thrasher, Ooms Conservation Area, *Columbia*, 10 Nov 2020 © Meryl Ackley.



Pine Siskins and American Goldfinches, Northville, *Suffolk*, 8 Nov 2020 © MaryLaura Lamont. See note on p. 14.



The Common Redpoll above the Hoary Redpoll shown here was thought to represent the regionally rare and poorly documented subspecies *Acanthis flammea rostrata* (“Greater Redpoll”), based on its large size, large bill, heavy streaking, and extensively dark face. From the east spit at the mouth of Braddock Bay, *Monroe*, 19 Nov 2020, © Dominic Shernoy.

Warbler diversity was about average this season, with 28 species recorded. Last year the number of species seen was 28, and preceding year was 27. The highlight was Connecticut Warblers seen in three different locations in the Region in September. A **Summer Tanager** was observed and photographed by Renee DePrato on 23 November on her feeder in Binghamton. There were only two other reports ever in eBird of this species in the Region. Also, a Dickcissel was reported from Long Pond State Forest in October, and was first detected by its “flatulent call”.

In summary, 226 species vs. 211 last year were reported, with some interesting rarities for the Region. The number of observations increased by 50% from last season to 49,280. This increase may be due to more birding due to the pandemic, the breeding bird atlas, and to the growth of eBird. I also want to acknowledge and thank Bill Ostrander, who sorted eBird data to identify arrivals, last dates, and high counts.

FRANKLIN MOUNTAIN HAWKWATCH TOTALS

Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
Black Vulture	11/21	1	11/21	1
Turkey Vulture	9/30	107	10/23	603
Osprey	8/30	6	09/26	55
Golden Eagle	10/23	29	11/18	187
No. Harrier	9/14	6	10/31	44
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8/30	70	10/8	424
Cooper’s Hawk	9/11	6	10/8	55
No. Goshawk	9/6	1	9/6	5
Bald Eagle	8/30	38	11/12	248
Red-shouldered Hawk	9/10	3	10/9	25
Broad-winged Hawk	8/30	912	9/11	2951
Swainson’s Hawk				
Red-tailed Hawk	8/31	83	11/2	698
Rough-legged Hawk	11/3	1	11/3	2
Am. Kestrel	8/30	9	10/1	82
Merlin	9/9	3	10/6	17
Peregrine Falcon	9/8	2	10/24	12
Unidentified				29
Total including unidentified:				5438

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ABBREVIATIONS

AqPk – Aqua Terra P, BROO; **BPd** – Boland Pond, BROO; **BUNP** – Binghamton University Nature Pres, BROO; **CannR** – Cannonsville Res, DELA; **CG** – Carantouan Greenway, T Barton, TIOG; **DorP** – Dorchester P, BROO; **FLT** – Finger Lakes Trail; **FMHW** – Franklin Mt Hawk Watch, DELA; **KeibelRd** – Keibel Rd, BROO; **LHNC** – Lime Hollow Nature Center, T Cortlandville, CORT; **MHL** – Michigan Hollow L, TIOG; **NMSF** – New Michigan State Forest, CHEN; **OtsL** – Otsego L, OTSE; **SHM** – Sherburne Railroad Grade Marsh, CHEN; **SusRB** – Susquehanna Ri, Greater Binghamton, BROO; **TomakRd** – Bird Song Meadows Farm, Tomak Rd, T Candor, TIOG; **ULCP** – Upper Lisle CP, T Triangle, BROO; **WHP** – William Hill P, Johnson City, BROO.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: max 45 MHL 24 Nov.
Brant: max 1350 OTSE 24 Oct; 150 Long Pond SF CHEN 25 Oct.
Cackling Goose: 2 TomakRd 25 Oct, flyover.
Tundra Swan: max 7 T Scott CORT 18 Nov.
King Eider: KeibelRd 8-11 Nov, ph, mob, (DN).
Surf Scoter: OtsL 31 Oct-1 Nov, ph, mob.
White-winged Scoter: max 2 Cortland Gravel Pits CORT 28-29 Oct.
Black Scoter: Cortland Gravel Pits CORT 29 Oct.
Long-tailed Duck: max 6 KeibelRd 5 Nov.
Common Goldeneye: max 39 Allen L OTSE 6 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 16 KeibelRd 30 Oct.
Ruddy Duck: max 75 ULCP 30 Oct.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 7 ULCP 8 Oct.
Horned Grebe: max 2 KeibelRd 12 Nov.
Red-necked Grebe: Skaneateles L CORT 16 Nov.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: LHNC 7 Sep; ULCP 21Sep.
Black-billed Cuckoo: no reports.
Common Nighthawk: max 31 TomakRd 9 Sep; 8 Upper Mill Pd TIOG 9 Sep; last SusRB

24 Sep, most sightings along rivers or bodies of water.

Chimney Swift: last 2 Stupke Pd CORT 11 Sep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last Death Valley Rd BROO 6 Oct, ph.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Virginia Rail: max 2 Perkins Pd SF CHEN 19 Sep.
Sora: max 2 ULCP 4 Oct.
Common Gallinule: SHM 19 Sep, only report.
American Coot: max 32 OtsL 25 Nov.
Sandhill Crane: max 21 SHM 19 Nov, flyover, ph, (MD).
Black-bellied Plover: max 3 DorP 18 Sep; 3 DorP 18-22 Oct.
American Golden-Plover: max 5 ULCP 4 Oct, ph.
Hudsonian Godwit: DorP 11 Sep, (DN).
Sanderling: DorP 1-11 Sep; ULCP 9 Oct.
Dunlin: max 101 KeibelRd 30 Oct, exact count from photos.
Baird's Sandpiper: Stupke Pd CORT 22-23 Oct, ph.
White-rumped Sandpiper: 2 ULCP 31 Oct, ph; Stupke Pd CORT 31 Oct-1 Nov, ph.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 12 ULCP 9 Oct.

Long-billed Dowitcher: Chenango R Binghamton BROO 12 Sep.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 31 ULCP 31 Oct.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 12 ULCP 31 Oct-1 Nov, ph.
Franklin's Gull: ULCP 7 Oct.
Greater Black-backed Gull: T Scott CORT 15 & 18 Nov, only reports.
Caspian Tern: max 5 DorP 11 Sep.
Common Tern: 4 ULCP 2 Sep, only report.
Forster's Tern: max 4 ULCP 3 Oct.

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: Skaneateles L CORT 27 Nov; ULCP 2 Nov; TomakRd 14 Nov; flyover.
Common Loon: max 204 TomakRd 14 Nov; 73 T Scott CORT 18 Nov; both reports are of flyovers.
Great Egret: max 7 Chenango R Binghamton BROO 13 & 28 & 30 Sep.
Cattle Egret: Long Creek Rd TIOG 2 Nov, ph, only report.
Glossy/White-faced Ibis: Chenango R Binghamton BROO 27 Sep -17 Oct, mob, *intro*, ph, (JW), despite great photos species was not determined.
NOTE: FMHW totals cover 30 August to 1 Jan; averages reflect 2001 to 2019 data, *intro*.
Black Vulture: total 1 FMHW; just 4 other scattered reports.
Turkey Vulture: total 603 FMHW, 23% above avg; 80 TomakRd 24 Oct.
Osprey: total 55 FMHW, 49% below avg.
Golden Eagle: total 187 FMHW, 3% above avg; 5 TomakRd 31 Oct.
Northern Harrier: total 44 FMHW, 28% below avg; 4 TomakRd 25 Oct.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: total 424 FMHW, 13% below avg; 11 TomakRd 14 Sep.
Cooper's Hawk: total 55 FMHW, 39% below avg.
Northern Goshawk: total 5 FMHW, 73% below avg.
Bald Eagle: total 248 FMHW, 47% above avg; many other rep; very widespread.
Red-shouldered Hawk: total 25 FMHW, 50% below avg.
Broad-winged Hawk: total 2951 FMHW, 92% above avg; 1300 TomakRd 14 Sep (ATro).
Red-tailed Hawk: total 698 FMHW, 60% below avg; many other rep.
Rough-legged Hawk: total 2 FMHW, 70% below avg.

American Kestrel: total 82 FMHW, 15% below avg; 19 TomakRd 14 Sep.
Merlin: total 17 FMHW, 39% below avg.
Peregrine Falcon: total 12 FMHW, 28% below avg; many rep from Binghamton BROO of resident downtown pair.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: FLT CORT 7 Sep, audio recording-singing in fall is rare; max 5 TomakRd 6-29 Sep.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 2 Glimmerglass SP OTSE 12 Sep; 7 other scattered reports in Sep.
SAY'S PHOEBE: TomakRd 23 Sep, mob, ph, (ATro), second year in a row that one was seen here.
Northern Shrike: arr Tripp Hill Rd OTSE 21 Nov, ph.
Black-capped Chickadees: estimates of 45-600 DorP 17-25 Oct, by 6 different observers, mass movement.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 28 Chenango Valley SP 28 Nov; 691 reports this season vs 59 last season-though the total number of observations this season was roughly 150% of last fall's; this is an irruption year.
Horned Lark: max 125 Edwards Hill Rd BROO 23 Nov.
Winter Wren: max 5 LHNC 9 Oct; 5 Griggs Gulf SF CORT 11 Oct.
Marsh Wren: last BoPd 28 Nov, late.
Veery: last CG 20 Sep.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: max 4 Masonville DELA (NFC) 26 Sep.
Swainson's Thrush: max 19 Masonville DELA (NFC) 26 Sep.
American Pipit: max 110 Van Alstine Rd OTSE 21 Oct; 100 Cherry Valley Hill Rd BROO 11 Oct.
Evening Grosbeak: max 50 Stage Rd CHEN 29 Oct, feeder; arr 5 T Marathon CORT 17 Oct, feeder; 129 reports thru Region, irruption year.
Common Redpoll: max 50 Ridge Rd CHEN 15 Nov; arr 4 LHNC 7 Nov; 46 reports thru Region, irruption year.
Red Crossbill: max 13 Morgan Hill SF CORT 7 Nov, ph; 13 FMHW 12 Nov; arr 8 Perkins Pond SF CHEN 12 Sep; 24 reports thru Region except OTSE, irruption year.
White-winged Crossbill: 2 Morgan Hill SF CORT 25 Nov.
Pine Siskin: max 120 T Scott CORT 20 Oct; arr FLT CHEN 12 Sep; 187 reports thru Region, irruption year (last year 2 reports).

Lapland Longspur: max 4 Van Alstine Rd OTSE 2 Nov, ph; 3 other reports.
Snow Bunting: max 40 Oxford CHEN 18 Nov; 10 other scattered reports in late Oct & Nov.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Grasshopper Sparrow: TomakRd 24 Sep-6 Oct (ATro), only report.
Clay-colored Sparrow: TomakRd 2 Oct (ATro), only report.
American Tree Sparrow: max 27 Victory St Johnson City BROO 22 Nov.
Vesper Sparrow: max 3 TomakRd 12 Oct; last Van Alstine Rd OTSE 31 Oct.
Nelson's Sparrow: West River Rd CORT 2 Oct (CW), only report.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Tubbs Hill Rd TIOG 9 Sep; last 2 Daisy Hollow Rd CORT 22 Oct.

Rusty Blackbird: max 6 MHL 25 Oct; 6 Daisy Hollow Rd CORT 22 Oct; 6 Richfield OTSE 12 Oct, ph.

Tennessee Warbler: max 5 LHNC 4 Oct.

Orange-crowned Warbler: 10 reports thru the Region in Oct.

Connecticut Warbler: LHNC 7 Sep, ph; Wolfe Park BROO 12 Sep; Otselic SF CHEN 19 Sep.

Mourning Warbler: 4 reports from SF's in CORT & CHEN in early Sep; TomakRd 18 Sep.

Hooded Warbler: max 3 Baker School House SF CORT 7 Sep, FL.

Cape May Warbler: max 10 Johnson City BROO 8 Sep.

SUMMER TANAGER (R4): Binghamton BROO 23 Nov, feeder, ph, (RD).

Dickcissel: Long Pond SF CHEN 3 Oct, "first detected by flatulent call", (CW).

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REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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After a hot and dry summer, the Fall 2020 season started with a dry September and above average temperatures averaging 74.9 ° F, 2.7° over normal. Only 1.5" of rain fell, 2.2" less than expected. Fair or partly sunny skies were seen 23 of 30 days. October was a touch above average in temperature but very typical with 3.5" of rain and only 14 of 31 days fair or partly sunny. Fog was reported more than half the days, at 18. Typical conditions didn't last long though. November average highs of 55.7° were a whopping 7.3° above average. Precipitation, both rain and snow, was substantially below average. The season inherited dry conditions and low water levels from summer. Both Sandy Pond and Delta Lake had dry areas not seen in years, the Carl Island shoal spreading to nearly the south spit at Sandy and Delta parched as far west as the state park. More shoreline emerged at Onondaga Lake but because it is part of the regulated canal system no large mud flats formed. Ditto for Oneida Lake, though the Sylvan and Verona beach areas were more exposed than normal. Fair Haven's West Barrier Bar continued to have a sandy edge, a situation almost unimaginable in high-water years.

Fall 2020 was an absolutely epic season for rarities, scarce passage migrants, shorebirds, and winter finches, finishing **30 species** above the recent 10 year average and even besting Spring 2020 by 11 species! Andrea Burke found a **Pink-footed Goose** at the Old Fly Marsh preserve near Fabius on 15 November but before word got out it was found independently by Drew Weber. The bird lingered to 21 November and was twitched by many. It was a second Regional record and first for Onondaga County. Attention to spots on the way to Fabius yielded a Ross's Goose for Robert and Rita Reed at the ponds in Tully. This bird also stayed long enough for others to see, while in the Utica area Elizabeth

Frascatore observed one on 10 November. Brant and dabbling duck numbers were unremarkable. While lakewatching on 2 November David Wheeler counted six King Eiders heading west. Three were subsequently found close in at Fair Haven. John Germain photographed a juvenile Harlequin Duck on the west breakwall there on 11 September, an unexpectedly early date for the species but perhaps an annual occurrence as young birds disperse.

The **Eurasian Collared-Dove** in Rome continued from late August and was last seen on 6 September. The bird had been present for several months and lack of continued observer effort may explain the dearth of reports. In late November hummingbird feeders still active at homes in the Cold Springs area southeast of Baldwinsville attracted an immature female **Rufous Hummingbird**. The bird's presence eventually became known to the birding community and more details will be given in the next report. How long would it stay?

The presence of excellent shorebird habitat at Sandy Pond did not disappoint. Matt Brown made daily trips to the Carl Island shoal as it grew throughout the season and found most of the species expected and associated with the Lake Ontario shoreline. Highlights include Whimbrel on 10 and 17 September, nine Hudsonian Godwits on the 29th (lesser numbers were seen on numerous days from mid to late September), and as many as four Red Knots seen on various dates also in September. Stilt Sandpiper, like the species above, is often missed in the Region, but this year was found at Onondaga Lake early in the month. Brown contributed two sightings from Sandy Pond. While lakewatching on 2 November David Wheeler saw four Purple Sandpipers traveling west with groups of Dunlin. Gregg Dashnau found three at Sunset Bay Park on 24 November, an unusual location for the species. Single birds were seen at the more expected Fair Haven location. Always elusive, Buff-breasted Sandpiper was found near Skaneateles by Drew Weber while Gary Chapin found one near Hinckley (Herkimer County), and Brown added one for Sandy Pond. All three locations are unusual. Wheeler found **Western Sandpiper** at Fair Haven on 3 and 13 September, while Brown found them at Sandy on 16 and 17 September. While leaving the pond together on 10 September, Brown and Wheeler were delighted when a **Red Phalarope** landed near their boat and began spinning. Two more were seen at Derby Hill on each of two dates later in the season. Brown added Red-necked Phalarope to his Sandy Pond list with two on 12 September and another on the 17th.

Meanwhile Delta Lake was so dry and the flats so extensive that wet edge habitat was hard to find and mostly distant and unreachable. Shorebird numbers were consequently disappointing with none of the large numbers expected of the spot in good years. Delta's 'sweet spot' of mud and observer distance likely came before the peak of fall migration, a very unusual occurrence. Bill Purcell saw a Whimbrel on 1 September and Gary Chapin contributed the Region's only Long-billed Dowitcher on 22 September. Distance and heat shimmer made flocks of peeps unidentifiable while the lake bottom was too dry for shorebirds but not firm enough for walking. Some muddy edges emerged along the Onondaga Lake west shore but were insufficient to attract large numbers of birds. Often reliable farm fields such as those on Ditch Bank Road were either parched or planted.

The Derby Hill lakewatch seemed very average but still produced all three jaeger species. Assembled observers agreed on a Long-tailed Jaeger on 7 October, while David Wheeler was there at the right time on 2 November to see a Pomarine Jaeger and four Black-legged Kittiwakes. Jay McGowan and Livia Santana saw one the next day at Fair Haven. Meanwhile at the relatively cozy confines of Onondaga Lake, a **Sabine's Gull** was found on 31 October by Gregg Dashnau, Fred Leff, and Tony Carapella. The bird attracted 61 birders from all over the state during its four day stay, and was often very close and even

walking around on land near the amphitheatre. Onondaga Lake had previously hosted a Sabine's Gull on 18 September 1980. Drew Weber, Sarah Dzielski, and Nick Bonomo saw another Sabine's on 14 November from Derby Hill, a traditional location where it has been seen 2-3 times per decade during lakewatches. Matt Brown found the only Little Gull of the season on 29 October and 6-7 November at Sandy Pond. Among big numbers of Ring-billed Gulls at Ditch Bank Road Gregg Dashnau found a **Franklin's Gull** on 17 November. The spot had hosted a first county record a few months earlier in June. Same bird returning? Mickey Scilingo found a Forster's Tern on Oneida Lake from Constantia on 1 September and Dashnau saw two at Fair Haven on 27 October. Last but not least in seabird highlights, Dashnau observed a second Regional record **Magnificent Frigatebird** from the east/west breakwall at Fair Haven on 27 October. The bird was leaving Little Sodus Bay and flew up the channel into Lake Ontario, not to be seen again. Like several other prior sightings of the species in upstate New York, the encounter was not related to a hurricane passage in the traditional sense where the storm veers inland along the mid-Atlantic states and passes west of the Region. Was its presence weather-related nonetheless? No extreme conditions were noted prior. Is the species a regular fall visitor to the Great Lakes without weather assist? Does it get here via the Mississippi Valley or Atlantic coast?

Two **American White Pelicans** found on Tuscarora Lake the last day of the prior period continued on 1 September but were not seen after. A Great Egret was present at Onondaga Lake throughout much of the period and was still there on 28 November, practically a winter record! Drew Weber found an immature **Glossy/White-faced Ibis** there on 11 October. Difficulty in separating the two in fall requires the bird to be considered unknown as to species. A discussion of this matter is contained in Kenn Kaufman's classic *Advanced Birding* (Peterson Field Guides). It stayed at least eight days providing good opportunity for study with various opinions and birder frustration over its identity. Reports of Black Vulture came from Little Falls and Fayetteville, two intermittent but expected locations. Golden Eagle was seen migrating from four locations, while both Long-eared and Short-eared Owl were reported.

Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen at six locations in September. Northern Shrike was reported at 12 different locations, a good showing for our Region. Mickey Scilingo's annual Blue Jay watch along Oneida Lake's north shore tallied an amazing 8,040 birds migrating on 22 September, plus 147 Black-capped Chickadees on 26 September. Over a 12 day period spanning 15-27 September, Scilingo counted a total of 31,073 Blue Jays, his best in years. Such a big flight foretold the movement of other irruptives, as seen below. Five Philadelphia Vireos at Three Rivers was a good count. On 14 November, Dave Baldrini observed a **Varied Thrush** in Constantia but the bird didn't stay long. The sighting is the second for Oswego County and fourth overall for Region 5. It is also the first for the Region in fall.

It was to be a great year for winter irruptives with all the expected species represented. Evening Grosbeaks arrived on 9 October and were soon being spotted throughout the Region rather than only in the southern highlands and Herkimer County. By the end of the period the movement was being considered the strongest in a decade. Pine Siskins migrated during the usual mid-October-mid-November timeframe in substantial numbers. Redpolls soon followed and large flocks were spotted throughout the Region in November. Careful looking at redpoll flocks yielded the expected Hoary. **Pine Grosbeak** hasn't been seen in the area for years but soon showed in small numbers, the first being noted at Onondaga Lake Park's west shore on 3 November. A few were seen through the month but numbers were less than hoped for. Red Crossbills continued at the Morgan Hill State Forest spot on Shackham Road and were reported from several other locations. A few White-winged

joined them on 9 October and on 25 October 12 were seen at Fair Haven. Was a huge year for them in the making? Bohemian Waxwing was first spotted on 24 November and more soon followed with 15 seen by Kevin Topping at his preserve near Salisbury in Herkimer County. In the past, Bohemians sometimes outnumbered Cedars. Would that happen this winter? Purple Finch flocks greatly exceeded those reported last fall both in the Dolgeville area and in the southern highlands where exceptional observer effort at the Shackham Road crossbill spot yielded excellent numbers. The species was not particularly abundant elsewhere, however, as it prefers upland areas to the Lake Ontario plain. American Goldfinch flocks were larger than usual with an impressive 450 estimated at the southwest corner of Onondaga Lake on 26 October. Many substantial groups were reported. Last but not least, Red-breasted Nuthatches were also seen in larger numbers than usual and also benefited from increased birder effort in the southern highlands. In a mile's distance on Shackham Road, 27 were counted on 22 November. How would numbers at this location compare in years when it received little attention?

Clay-colored Sparrow was reported only once, typical for fall when a non-singing bird is inconspicuous. Chris Spagnoli found one in Manlius on 18 October. Chris Wood located a **Nelson's Sparrow** at Howland Island on 10 October, a great find for the Region though a logical place given the species' habitat preference. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was described by Iliana Dafoe from the Cedarvale area of South Onondaga on 6 September. Golden-winged Warbler is scarce in the Region and two reports of seemingly pure birds were received. Michael Gruver found one near Point Rock (Oneida County) on 3 September while Gary Meyers spotted one on the 9th. Orange-crowned Warbler was reliable at Onondaga Lake Park's west shore and seen a few other places as well. Kevin Topping contributed a **Connecticut Warbler** on 13 September from Herkimer County while Steve Schwab found one on 3 October in Elbridge. One of the Region's scarcest passage migrants, both birds were seen well. A very late Yellow Warbler was reported on 31 October from Onondaga Lake Park while a Blackburnian lingered until the 24th. Last but not least, Josh Stasik found a **Yellow-throated Warbler** on 8 September in Marcellus.

This season a total of 265 species and one hybrid was reported, which is an incredible 30 species (!) above the recent 10-year average for the season and Region. Highlights included: Ross's Goose, **Pink-footed Goose**, Greater White-fronted Goose, King Eider, Harlequin Duck, **Eurasian Collared-Dove**, Whimbrel, Hudsonian Godwit, Red Knot, Purple Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, **Western Sandpiper**, **Long-billed Dowitcher**, Red-necked Phalarope, **Red Phalarope**, Long-tailed Jaeger, **Sabine's Gull**, Little Gull, **Franklin's Gull**, Forster's Tern, **Magnificent Frigatebird**, American White Pelican, **Glossy/White-faced Ibis**, Black Vulture, **Varied Thrush**, Bohemian Waxwing, **Pine Grosbeak**, Hoary Redpoll, Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill, **Nelson's Sparrow**, **Yellow-breasted Chat**, **Connecticut Warbler**, and **Yellow-throated Warbler**.

Fall 2020 produced 90,906 eBird records for Region 5 (twice the number compared to fall 2019) and were processed by Swan Swan Hummingbird v5.5. Reports were contributed by 498 people, versus 313 for fall 2019.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADK – Adirondacks, n. HERK; **BLNC** – Beaver L Nature Center, Baldwinsville; **Brew** – Oneida L at Brewerton; **BRH** – Bishop Road Hawk Watch, T Richland; **Bville** – Baldwinsville; **BW** – Baltimore Woods Nature Center; **CM** – Clay Marsh, Clay; **Const** – Oneida L at Constantia; **DB** – Ditch Bank Rd & vicinity, T Sullivan/Lenox; **DC** – Deer Creek Marsh, T Richland; **DH** – Derby Hill, T Mexico; **DL** – Delta L; **Dolge** – Dolgeville, HERK; **FH** – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and West Barrier Bar; **Fult** – Fulton area including Oswego Ri, Indian Pt, L Neatahwanta **GB** – Great Bear Rec Area, Fulton; **GLSP** – Green Lakes SP, Fayetteville; **HF** – Highland Forest CP; **HI** – Howland Island WMA, CAYU; **HV** – Happy Valley WMA, Parish; **KK** – Kindred Kingdom Wildlife Center, Pennellville; **LH** – Labrador Hollow Unique Area; **L Ont** – L Ontario; **LoopR** – Loop Rd, Montezuma NWR, CAYU; **MCL** – Madison County Landfill; **MexPt** – Mexico Pt SP; **MHSF** – Morgan Hill State Forest; **MSI** – Madison St Impoundment, Hamilton; **MW** – McKoons Road Wetland, Colombia Center, s. HERK; **OakC** – Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse; **OF** – Old Forge; **OLC** – Onondaga L Creekwalk; **OneiL** – Oneida L; **OnonL** – Onondaga L & Onondaga L P (east and west shore); **OSP** – Oneida Shores P, Brewerton; **OswH** – Oswego Harbor; **Phx** – Phoenix dam area; **PPT** – Oneida L at Phillips Pt, W Monroe; **RCFS** – Rice Creek Field Station, Oswego; **RRP** – Radisson Ri P, Three Rivers confluence, Phoenix; **SBP** – Sunset Bay P, Scriba; **SFNS** – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; **SH** – Southern Highlands of ONON & MADI; **SHTF** – Sky High Turf Farm, Chittenango; **Skan** – Skaneateles; **SNC** – Sterling Nature Center, Sterling; **SP** – Sandy Pd and vicinity; **SSSP** – Selkirk Shores SP; **SVB** – Sylvan & Verona Beach; **Syr** – Syracuse; **TNP** – Tuscarora Nature P, MADI; **TR** – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; **UM** – Utica Marsh; **VBSP** – Verona Beach SP; **WH** – Whiskey Hollow; **WP** – Woodman Pd, Hamilton.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: arr 2 BRH 11 Sep; max 280 SP 22 Nov.

Ross's Goose: Utica 10 Nov (EF); Tully 21-24 Nov (RRR, mob, ph).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: Fabius 15-21 Nov (AB, DWe, mob, ph), 1st county & 2nd Reg rec.

Brant: arr DH 30 Sep; 350 OSP 10 Oct; max 713 DH 24 Oct; groups Oct, singles Nov.

Cackling Goose: arr OSP 3 Oct; 2 Van Buren

& Fulton 27 Oct; 3 OnonL 24 Nov; max 8 Syr 24 Nov, migrating.

Canada Goose: max 3000 WP; large flocks mid Oct thru.

Mute Swan: max 73 FH; small nums typ locs incl SP, OnonL.

Trumpeter Swan: max 4 FH & vicinity Nov & HI 19 Sep; only locs.

Tundra Swan: arr 2 WP 16 Oct; max 173 Const 14 Nov.

Wood Duck: max 45 DL 1 Sep; peak Sep/early Oct; small nums thru.

Blue-winged Teal: max 54 SP 3 Sep; last OnonL 19 Nov; most gone by late Oct.

Northern Shoveler: max 19 FH 27 Nov.

Gadwall: arr SP 9 Sep; max 140 FH 3, 21 Nov.

American Wigeon: max 450 FH 24 Oct.

Mallard: 400 SP 21 Nov; max 518 FH 21 Nov.

American Black Duck: max 74 DH 24 Oct.

Northern Pintail: max 95 DH 24 Oct.

Green-winged Teal: max 88 DH 24 Oct.

Canvasback: arr 2 FH 8 Nov; max 14 FH 11 Nov; 8 OswH 14 Nov; only reps.

Redhead: arr 2 OLP 1 Oct; max 70 OnonL 29 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: 740 Dutcher Pond, Const 8 Nov; max 850 WP 15 Nov; best nums mid Oct thru.

Greater Scaup: arr SP 16 Sep; max 81 PPt 28 Oct.

Lesser Scaup: arr FH 17 Sep; max 95 FH 27 Nov.

Greater/Lesser Scaup: max 600 OneiL 31 Oct.

King Eider: arr & max 6 DH 2 Nov (DWh); 3 FH 3-7 Nov (mob); only reps.

Harlequin Duck: FH 11 Sep (JG, ph), unusually early; only rep.

Surf Scoter: arr DH 30 Sep; max 6 SP 8 Nov.

White-winged Scoter: arr 6 FH 5 Oct; max 120 SP 8 Nov.

Black Scoter: arr 2 PPt 19 Oct; max 185 SP 8 Nov, exc count.

Long-tailed Duck: arr 3 FH 17 Oct; max est 1000 SP 22, 24 Nov.

Bufflehead: arr 2 FH 11 Oct; max 300 OnonL 31 Oct, exc count.

Common Goldeneye: arr MPSP 26 Sep; max 125 OneiL 5 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: 137 Otisco L 28 Nov; max est 200 BLNC 28 Nov.

Common Merganser: 150 SVB 11 Nov; max est 200 BLNC 28 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: est 500 FH 25 Nov; max est 600 DH 31 Oct.

Ruddy Duck: arr 6 Fulton 29 Sep; 45 WP 30 Oct; max 52 BLNC 22 Oct.

Ring-necked Pheasant: typ nums & locs.

Ruffed Grouse: typ nums & locs.

Wild Turkey: typ nums & locs.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 23 FH 29 Sep.

Horned Grebe: arr 3 WP 2 Oct; max 17 FH 27 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: arr DH 7 Oct; max 4 FH 3 Nov.

Rock Pigeon: typ nums & locs.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: Rome 1-6 Sep (mob), continuing from prev period.

Mourning Dove: typ nums & locs; max 150 Bville 12 Oct.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: singles 8 locs; last Marcellus 26 Sep.

Black-billed Cuckoo: CM 9 Sep; Oneida 27 Sep; only reps.

Common Nighthawk: max 9 Syr 9 Sep; last FH 17 Sep, hit by car.

Eastern Whip-poor-will: no reps (typical).

Chimney Swift: max 3 Const 6 Sep; last HI 27 Sep; few sightings, low nums.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 8 Elbridge 9 Sep; last Fabius 26 Sep.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: imm f Bville starting late Nov thru (BGo, mob).

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Virginia Rail: singles 6 locs; last Pulaski 24 Oct.

Sora: MSI 2 Sep; HI 5, 19 Sep; last OLP 11 Oct.

Common Gallinule: max 17 OnonL 13 Sep; last OnonL 9 Nov.

American Coot: 40 OnonL 27 Nov, good num; 200 FH 3 Nov, exc num; best counts mid Oct thru.

Sandhill Crane: max 3 HI 5 Sep; 2 DB 15 Sep; 2 HI 27 Sep; HI 12 Oct; Waterville 27-30 Oct; 2 Syr 24 Nov, flyover; only reps.

Black-bellied Plover: 10-20 SP Oct; max 23 DL 14 Oct.

American Golden-Plover: max 2 DL 24 Sep & SP 29 Sep & Remsen 21 Sep; last SP 29 Oct (MB).

Semipalmated Plover: 18 SP 3, 17 Sep; max 23 Hinckley 9 Sep; last SP 11 Nov.

Killdeer: max 80 BRH 6 Oct.

Upland Sandpiper: no reps.

Whimbrel: DL 1 Sep (BP); SP 10 Sep (MB); 3 SP 17 Sep (MB); only reps.

Hudsonian Godwit: 5 SP 17 Sep (MB); max 9 SP 29 Sep (MB); 1-3 var dates SP Oct; last SP 3 Oct (MB).

Ruddy Turnstone: FH 4, 14 Sep (DWh) & 1 Oct (DWh); SP 10 Sep; DL 11 Sep (KS); OswH 17 Sep (GD); only reps.

Red Knot: max 4 SP 3, 4 Sep (MB); 1-3 SP 17, 18 Sep (MB); last 3 19 Sep (MB).

Stilt Sandpiper: OLP 4, 8 Sep (mob); 1 SP 12 Sep (MB); 2 SP 17 Sep (MB); only reps.

Sanderling: 21 FH 3 Sep (DWh); max 143 SP 17 Sep (MB); good flocks SP var dates Sep, singles/small groups var locs Sep - Oct; 13 SP

11 Nov (MB) last 2 SP 22 Nov (MB).

Dunlin: arr Marcellus 10 Sep; max 203 SP 11 Nov; last 3 FH 13 Nov.

Purple Sandpiper: arr & max 4 DH 2 Nov (DWh, ph); 3 SBP 24 Nov (GD); last 2 FH 27 Nov (GD); singles FH var dates Nov.

Baird's Sandpiper: DL 1, 2 Sep; SP 9, 10 Sep; MSI 26 Sep; only reps.

Least Sandpiper: max 22 DL 26 Sep; small nums through Sep; last Van Buren 11 Oct.

White-rumped Sandpiper: max 5 SP 7 Nov; last 2 SP 14 Nov.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Skan 3, 4 Sep (DWe); Hinckley 9 Sep, unusual loc (GC); SP 12 Sep (MB).

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 21 SP 17 Sep; last HI 17 Sep.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 68 SP 17 Sep; last SP 23 Oct.

WESTERN SANDPIPER: FH 3 Sep (DWh, ph) & 13 Sep (DWh, ph); 1-2 SP 16, 17 Sep (MB, ph); SP 19 Sep (JM, LS, ph).

Short-billed Dowitcher: DL (KS) & SP (MB) 11 Sep; only reps.

Long-billed Dowitcher: DL 22 Sep (GC); only rep.

American Woodcock: 1-2 var locs Sep-Oct; max 3 TR 25 Oct; last Jville 12 Nov.

Wilson's Snipe: 10 reps singles typ locs; max 3 HI 12 Sep; last OLP 3 Nov.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 2 var locs Sep, poor count; singles var locs Sep; last Fulton 4-14 Nov (GD), very late but possibly injured.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 9 Fulton 3 Sep; last Fulton 4 Oct.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 25 HI 17 Oct; last 2 Weatherby Pond HERK 28 Oct.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 15 DL 13, 26 Sep; last FH 27 Nov.

Wilson's Phalarope: no reps.

Red-necked Phalarope: 2 SP 12 Sep (MB); SP 17 Sep (MB, DWh); only reps.

Red Phalarope: SP 10 Sep (MB, DWh); 2 DH 7 Oct (DWh, GD, BP); 2 DH 2 Nov (DWh); only reps.

Pomarine Jaeger: DH 2 Nov (DWh).

Parasitic Jaeger: FH 30 Sep (DWh) & 24 Oct (JM, LS); SNC 17 Oct (CW); max 3 DH 7 Oct (DWh, mob); last DH 2 Nov (mob).

Long-tailed Jaeger: DH 7 Oct (mob).

Black-legged Kittiwake: 4 DH 2 Nov (DWh); FH 3 Nov (JM, LS).

SABINE'S GULL (R5): OnonL 31 Oct – 3 Nov (GD, FL, TC); DH 14 Nov (DWe, SD, NB); 2nd county rec and 3rd away from DH.

Bonaparte's Gull: 126 SP 6 Nov; 132 DH 16

Nov; max 180 OSP 1 Oct.

Little Gull: SP 29 Oct, 6-7 Nov (MB).

FRANKLIN'S GULL (R5): DB 17 Nov (GD, ph).

Ring-billed Gull: max est 6000 OLP 29 Nov; typ nums at usual locs.

Herring Gull: max 416 SP 3 Nov.

Iceland Gull: arr DH 2 Nov; max 2 DB 15 Nov; singles typ locs.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: SVB 15 Sep; FH 1 Oct; 2 DH 2 Nov; DB 15, 22, 29 Nov; only reps.

Glaucous Gull: arr FH 6 Nov; SP 14 Nov; DB 15 Nov; SP 20 Nov; DB 22 Nov; only reps.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 45 SVB 10 Sep.

Caspian Tern: 20 OnonL 4 Sep; max 73 SP 3 Sep; 20-55 SP var dates early Sep; 6 FH 1 Oct; last FH 2 Oct.

Black Tern: no reps.

Common Tern: 10 OnonL 18 Sep; max 23 OSP 1 Oct; lower nums and earlier departure from OneiL.

Forster's Tern: Const 1 Sep (MS); 2 FH 27 Oct (GD); only reps.

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: arr OnonL 13 Oct; max 8 OnonL 27 Nov.

Common Loon: 76 OneiL 30 Oct; max 307 DH 16 Nov.

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: FH 27 Oct (GD, ph), 1st county & 2nd Reg rec, *intro*.

Double-crested Cormorant: max est 1500 OneiL 27 Sep & OnonL 26 Sep.

American White Pelican: 2 Tuscarora L MADI 1 Sep (mob), cont from prev per.

American Bittern: Amboy 1 Sep; TR 6 Sep; Cazenovia 14 Oct; only reps.

Least Bittern: no reps.

Great Blue Heron: max 25 SVB 23 Sep.

Great Egret: 1-2 var locs Sep-Oct; max 9 DL 5 Sep; last OLP 28 Nov, late.

Green Heron: max 4 HI 9 Sep & Syr 17 Sep; last Van Buren 7 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: Syr 6 Sep; 2 OLC 15 Sep; OLC 25 Sep; SP 19 Sep; FH 14 Oct.

GLOSSY/WHITE-FACED IBIS: imm OLP 11-19 Oct (DWe, mob), *intro*.

Black Vulture: 3 Little Falls 4 Sep; 4 Little Falls 12 Oct (MHu); Fayetteville 21 Nov (SH); 2 Little Falls 28 Nov (KT).

Turkey Vulture: max 982 BRH 6 Oct.

Osprey: max 8 BRH 11 Sep; OSP 25-30 Oct,

late; last Manlius 5 Nov, late.
Golden Eagle: arr BRH 25 Oct (BP); BLNC 28 Oct (GD); Syr 30 Oct (DWe); SH 5, 14, 28 Nov.
Northern Harrier: max 7 SP 27 Sep, migrating.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 15 BRH 17 Sep.
Cooper's Hawk: max 4 Const 21 Sep.
Northern Goshawk: ADK 12 Sep, 8 Nov; DH 10, 14 Nov; only reps.
Bald Eagle: max 18 BRH 11 Sep; singles, small nums daily in Reg.
Red-shouldered Hawk: max 11 OLP 25 Oct, migrating; last
Broad-winged Hawk: max 136 BRH 17 Sep; Syr 8 Oct; last Syr 30 Oct, very late.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 81 BRH 30 Oct.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr 2 FH 27 Oct; max 4 DH 14 Nov; singles var locs Nov.
Eastern Screech-Owl: max 4 HI 10 Oct.
Great Horned Owl: max 4 HI 19 Sep.
Snowy Owl: arr FH 5 Nov; 2 OswH 21 Nov; FH 21 Nov; SP 22 Nov.
Barred Owl: max 3 Erieville 12 Sep.
Long-eared Owl: Fabius 29 Nov (CS); only rep.
Short-eared Owl: arr OLP 19 Oct; TR 23 Oct; FH 29 Oct; Oneida 14-29 Nov; only reps.
Northern Saw-whet Owl: Remsen 3 Nov; Jamesville 22 Nov; only reps.
Belted Kingfisher: max 6 SP 19 Sep.
Red-headed Woodpecker: Elbridge 20 Nov; scattered reps mostly known locs.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: typ nums throughout period & reg.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 6 Salisbury 26 Sep.
Black-backed Woodpecker: no reps.
Downy Woodpecker: typ nums throughout period & reg.
Hairy Woodpecker: typ nums throughout period & reg.
Northern Flicker: max 10 Rome 7 Oct; singles thru.
Pileated Woodpecker: typ nums throughout period & reg.
American Kestrel: max 10 BRH 17 Sep; family groups Sep, singles thru.
Merlin: max 2 var locs/dates; singles var locs thru.
Peregrine Falcon: singles/pairs expected locs thru.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: max 3 RRP 6 Sep;

last Williamstown 30 Sep.
Eastern Kingbird: max 5 Nelson 3 Sep; last DeWitt 18 Sep.
Olive-sided Flycatcher: 6 singles in Sep; last Cazenovia 20 Sep.
Eastern Wood-Pewee: max 12 BW 6 Sep; last OakC 9 Oct.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: singles var locs Sep; last Salisbury 1 Oct.
Acadian Flycatcher: no reps.
Alder Flycatcher: no reps.
Willow Flycatcher: TR 3 Sep; only rep.
Least Flycatcher: max 3 Fabius 12 Sep; 1-2 var locs Sep; last OSP 1 Oct.
empidonax sp: small nums reported Sep.
Eastern Phoebe: max 9 Marcellus 26 Sep; last Elbridge 12 Nov.
Northern Shrike: arr TR 26 Oct; singles rep 12 locs.
Yellow-throated Vireo: max 2 var locs Sep; last Williamstown 30 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: max 4 FH 5 Oct & TR 19 Sep & Salisbury 26 Sep; last OLP 31 Oct.
Philadelphia Vireo: max 5 TR 19 Sep, good num; last 2 OSP 1 Oct.
Warbling Vireo: max 5 SP 11 Sep & OLP 7 Sep; last HI 10 Oct.
Red-eyed Vireo: max 28 GLSP 22 Sep; last OakC 19 Oct.
Canada Jay: no reps.
Blue Jay: max 8040 Const 22 Sep (MS), migrating, 31,073 counted in 12 days.
American Crow: max est 5000 Fabius 21 Nov; est 2000 Syr Nov roost flights.
Fish Crow: ; reps from known locs incl Bville, Phoenix, Rome, & OnonL.
Common Raven: max 14 Const 10 Nov; many reps thru.
Horned Lark: max 30 Richfield Springs 30 Oct; small flocks at typ locs thru.
Purple Martin: max 5 HI 19 Sep; small nums 4 other reps.
Tree Swallow: max 250 HI 5 Sep; last 25 HI 17 Oct; small flocks Sep – mid Oct.
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: max 60 Port Byron 13 Sep; last 2 HI 3 Oct; 2 other reps.
Bank Swallow: max 5 Port Byron 13 Sep; last HI 19 Sep; singles 3 other locs.
Cliff Swallow: OLP 16 Sep; only rep.
Barn Swallow: max 50 Fabius 2 Sep; last HI 10 Oct; small nums var locs Sep.
Black-capped Chickadee: 119 Const 25 Sep (MS), migrating; max 147 Const 26 Sep (MS), migrating; else typ nums throughout period & reg.

Boreal Chickadee: no reps.
Tufted Titmouse: typ nums throughout period & reg.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 27 MHSF 22 Nov, good nums at loc thru & throughout Reg.
White-breasted Nuthatch: typ nums throughout period & Reg.
Brown Creeper: max 5 FH 5 Oct; typ nums throughout period & Reg.
House Wren: max 10 TR 19 Sep; last 3 TR 25 Oct, late.
Winter Wren: 5 FH 5 Oct; max 9 HI 10 Oct; small nums thru.
Sedge Wren: no reps.
Marsh Wren: max 7 HI 19 Sep; small nums typ locs.
Carolina Wren: typ nums throughout period & reg.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 2 var locs early Sep; last Verona 9 Oct, late.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 40 FH 4 Oct; max 55 OakC 21 Oct; typ nums thru.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Erieville 11 Sep; max 40 FH 4 Oct & SP 3 Oct.
Eastern Bluebird: max 47 Const 3 Nov, migrating; typ locs & nums.
Veery: max 5 ADK 11 Sep; last Williamstown 27 Sep.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr RRP 3 Sep; max 5 Clay by NFC 2 Oct; last Kirkville 25 Oct, late.
Swainson's Thrush: max 22 ADK 11 Sep; last Const 15 Oct.
Hermit Thrush: max 7 OakC 12 Oct.
Wood Thrush: max 4 HI 19 Sep; last Kirkland 2 Oct.
American Robin: max 1796 Const 7 Nov, migrating.
VARIED THRUSH: Const 14 Nov (DBa), 4th Reg rec & 1st for season, 2nd county rec.
Gray Catbird: max 30 North Syr 22 Sep.
Brown Thrasher: max 6 BLNC 17 Sep; last Hamilton 10 Nov.
Northern Mockingbird: typ nums/locs.
European Starling: typical flocks widespread.
Bohemian Waxwing: arr 2 Scriba 24 Nov (GD); 15 Salisbury 26-27 Nov (KT); max 22 Salisbury 29 Nov (KT); 2 other reps.
Cedar Waxwing: max 150 Scriba 14 Nov.
House Sparrow: typ nums throughout period & reg.
American Pipit: arr 8 SP 11 Sep; max 200 Bville 12 Oct, good num; last 3 SP 26 Nov; good nums rep at typ locs.
Evening Grosbeak: arr Salisbury 9 Oct; max 34 Dolge 1 Nov; strong irruption year, good nums var locs throughout Reg; *intro*.

PINE GROSBEAK (R5): arr OLP 3 Nov (mob); max 5 New Woodstock 25 Nov (MY) & Bville 18 Nov (KM); 1-2 at 6 other locs; *intro*.
House Finch: max 34 TR 22 Oct; typ nums throughout period & reg.
Purple Finch: max 67 MHSF 3 Oct; good num typ locs SH & HERK.
Common Redpoll: arr 2 Central Square 17 Oct; 152 SP 7 Nov; max 300 T Fenner 28 Nov; good nums var locs throughout Reg.
Hoary Redpoll: OLP 4 Nov thru (mob); OSP 13 Nov (SD, NB); DB 28 Nov (MBu); 2 T Fenner 28 Nov (DWe).
Red Crossbill: max 125 MHSF 22 Nov, exc count, flocks continuing at loc; reps several other locs.
White-winged Crossbill: arr MHSF 9 Oct (MY); max 12 MHSF 25 Oct (SD) & FH 7 Nov (GD); reps several other locs.
Pine Siskin: max 151 MHSF 11 Oct; good nums Oct-mid Nov throughout Reg, smaller nums thereafter.
American Goldfinch: max 450 OLP 26 Oct, exc num; good nums thru Reg & period.
Lapland Longspur: arr FH 4 Oct (DWh); max 4 DL 9 Oct (KS); SP 14 Oct (MB); 1-2 at 4 other locs.
Snow Bunting: arr 3 FH 17 Oct; max 209 SP 6 Nov.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: max 10 GB 1 Oct; last Fabius 17 Nov.
American Tree Sparrow: arr TR 22 Oct; max 35 OLP 28 Nov.
Chipping Sparrow: max 30 OakC 29 Sep; last Elbridge 19 Nov; small nums into mid Nov at feeders.
Clay-colored Sparrow: Manlius 18 Oct (CS); only rep.
Field Sparrow: max 8 Syr 20 Sep.
Vesper Sparrow: max 2 BRH 23, 24, 29 Oct; singles 7 other locs.
Savannah Sparrow: max 3 OLP 8, 21 Oct; last OLP 31 Oct.
Grasshopper Sparrow: no reps.
NELSON'S SPARROW (R5): HI 10 Oct (CW), 14th Reg rec, 3rd for loc.
Fox Sparrow: arr Williamstown 5 Oct; 12 TR 26 Oct; max 13 WMonroe 27 Oct; last Elbridge 26 Nov.
Song Sparrow: 40 HI 10 Oct & OLP 6 Oct; max 52 TR 3 Oct.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Erieville 11 Sep; max 5 OLP 5, 6, 9 Sep & TR 10 Sep; last OLP 12

Nov, late.

Swamp Sparrow: max 46 HI 10 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: max 165 TR 3 Oct.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr OLP 21 Sep; 30 TR 10 Oct; max 40 Salisbury 9 Oct.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 85 Syr 30 Oct; nums thru Reg and period.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT(R5): South Onondaga 6 Sep (ID).

Bobolink: max 32 MSI 11 Sep; last TR 4 Oct; small nums typ locs Sep.

Eastern Meadowlark: max 19 BRH 11 Sep; last TR 5 Nov.

Orchard Oriole: no reps.

Baltimore Oriole: max 3 Marcellus 5 Sep; last Williamstown 28 Sep.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 6439 BRH 11 Oct, but see blackbird sp below; typ nums thru Reg and period.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 200 Bville 1 Nov; typ nums thru Reg and period.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 3 TR 26 Sep; max 110 CM 21 Oct; last 5 Waterville 27 Nov.

Common Grackle: max est 20000 TR 23 Oct, migrating, but see blackbird sp below; typ nums thru Reg and period.

Blackbird sp: max est 50000 CM 23 Oct (DWh) & OLP 8 Nov (GD), presumed mostly Red-winged and Grackle; counts > 10000 several typ locs.

Ovenbird: max 4 Salisbury 5 Sep; last TR 3 Oct; three dozen rees 1-2 early-mid Sep.

Louisiana Waterthrush: no reps (typical).

Northern Waterthrush: 2 SP 19 Sep; FH 30 Sep, late; Syr 6 Oct, late; only reps.

Golden-winged Warbler: Point Rock ONEI 3 Sep (MG); Hamilton 9 Sep (GM); only reps.

Blue-winged Warbler: max 2 BLNC 17 Sep; last Erie Canal near Rome Sand Plains 20 Sep; 7 other reps Sep.

Black-and-white Warbler: max 4 MHSF 6 Sep; last OakC 21 Oct.

Prothonotary Warbler: no reps.

Tennessee Warbler: max 13 HI 27 Sep; last CM 2 Nov, late.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr TR 20 Sep; last OLP 29 Nov; 14 locs total, all singles.

Nashville Warbler: max 8 GLSP 22 Sep; last OakC 28 Oct.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER (R5): Elbridge 3 Oct (SS); Salisbury HERK 13 Sep (KT), 3rd county rec.

Mourning Warbler: singles rep 7 locs.

Common Yellowthroat: max 15 TR 12 Sep; last OLP 27 Oct; singles/small groups to mid

Oct.

Hooded Warbler: max 5 BW 3, 11 Sep; last Cazenovia 21 Sep; 1-2 several other locs early Sep.

American Redstart: max 4 at 3 locs mid-Sep; Westvale 11 Oct, late; GB 17 Oct, late; small nums thru late Sep.

Cape May Warbler: max 5 Skaneateles 9 Sep & Fabius 10 Sep; last FH 10 Oct; 1-4 var locs Sep.

Cerulean Warbler: Cazenovia 18 Sep (JK); only rep.

Northern Parula: max 7 SP 19 Sep; last OLP 8 Nov, late; 1-2 var locs Sep – mid Oct.

Magnolia Warbler: max 10 Fabius 10 Sep; last TR 22 Oct, late.

Bay-breasted Warbler: max 6 FH 16 Sep; last Van Buren 11 Oct; 1-3 var locs mostly Sep.

Blackburnian Warbler: max 7 BW 6 Sep; WP 11 Oct, late; 1-3 var locs Sep.

Yellow Warbler: 3 SP 21 Sep; max 7 SP 19 Sep; OLP 11 Oct, late; FH 17 Oct, very late; last OLP 31 Oct, very late; singles rep Sep but bulk of migration done.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 4 HF 11 Sep; last Fabius 2 Oct.

Blackpoll Warbler: max 30 FH 29 Sep – 1 Oct; 12 OLP 13 Oct; last FH 24 Oct; best counts late Sep/early Oct.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 6 Bubb L HERK 1 Sep; last TR 26 Oct, late.

Palm Warbler: arr North Bay 11 Sep; max 8 OLP 24 Sep & HI 3 Oct; last CM 25 Oct.

Pine Warbler: max 6 n HERK 13 Sep; last FH 17 Oct.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 150 SP 19 Sep; last FH 23 Nov.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (R5): Marcellus 8 Sep (JS).

Prairie Warbler: no reps.

Black-throated Green Warbler: max 9 SP 19 Sep; last Van Buren & FH 16 Oct.

Canada Warbler: singles 14 locs Sep; last SP 15 Sep.

Wilson's Warbler: max 3 SP 3, 9 Sep & TR 26 Sep; last Salisbury 9 Oct.

Scarlet Tanager: max 3 var locs Sep; last OLC 8 Oct.

Northern Cardinal: typ nums throughout period & reg.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 8 SFNS 13 Sep; last Marcellus 31 Oct, very late.

Indigo Bunting: max 4 BW 6, 11 Sep & Tully 5 Sep; last Clinton 10 Oct, late.

REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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The fall's weather was something of a mixed bag, but was generally mild and dry. Mean monthly temperatures for September and October were within 0.5° F of normal, but November was 5.6° above normal. During a stretch from 5 to 11 November daily temperatures exceeded long-term averages by 11° to 18° each day, and reached 76° on 10 November. September and November were both relatively dry, with a combined total of 4.1" of precipitation, about 3.4" below normal and less than the 4.9" of rain that fell in October, the latter 1.2" above normal. Unlike many years winter weather did not settle in by the end of November, although there were a few chilly nights with temperatures dropping to as low as 16° on 18 November.

Waterfowl were generally unexceptional, especially the Snow Geese, which largely missed Region 6 as evident by the seasonal maximum of 12 individuals. Brant also were unusually scarce. Goose highlights included a Greater White-fronted Goose periodically seen on the St. Lawrence River in Massena for two weeks in late October and early November, and two reports of Cackling Geese. No rare ducks were observed, and duck numbers seemed generally low except at Wilson Hill WMA, where the annual *Aythya* rafts were larger than usual, with as many as 8750 Ring-necked Ducks and 2400 Redhead, with good numbers of dabbling ducks as well. Green-winged Teal were especially abundant at Wilson Hill, and the high count there of 1700, while unusually high for Region 6, was thought to be very conservative. The most unusual duck of the season was a female Red-crested Pochard among the *Aythya* rafts at Wilson Hill, surely an escapee.

Shorebird diversity was relatively high for Region 6, as was the number of locations where shorebirds were reported, but numbers of several usually common species were poor. The three juvenile **Hudsonian Godwits** that appeared at Whalen Park exceeded the total number reported in Region 6 over the previous decade. Whalen Park was among the most active shorebird sites Regionally this season, especially in October and early November, when Black-bellied Plover, Dunlin, and White-rumped Sandpiper lingered later than usual. Lewis County birders continued to enjoy the locally unusual shorebird show at the Whetstone Gulf Reservoir that included such county rarities as a Stilt Sandpiper on 9 September and American Golden-Plover 21-25 September. The El Dorado Shores Preserve and Perch River WMA also had decent numbers of shorebirds, including Baird's Sandpipers at both locations. Bill Munro photographed a Red-necked Phalarope on the St. Lawrence River on 10 September, for the only phalarope report of the season. Despite the relative abundance of shorebirds, Least Sandpipers and especially Semipalmated Sandpipers were unusually scarce, with a maximum count of the latter of two individuals.

Jefferson County has never had much of a lake watching tradition, but efforts by Steve Kelling at Tibbits Point paid off on 15 October when an immature **Black-legged Kittiwake** flew by close to shore allowing quite good photographs. The **Brown Pelican** found at Dark Island shoals in late August was last seen on 2 September. A search by boat of all of all of the shoals and rocks in the vicinity on 3 September failed to turn up the pelican, but did net the last Black Tern of the season.

The passerine migration was about average, with a few decent waves of migrants interspersed by lengthy periods of modest movement. Many species seemed to linger later in the fall than usual, especially late examples including a Least Flycatcher on Fort Drum

and a Philadelphia Vireo at Long Point State Park on 14 October, and a House Wren in Alexandria on 23 October. A Brown Thrasher on Fort Drum 23 September was late, and another that appeared in a Canton yard on 11 November looked like it was going to attempt to overwinter, as did a Baltimore Oriole that showed up at a Rodman feeder on 25 November. In contrast to these late birds, swallows vanished early, with the last Tree and Barn Swallows reports on 12 September, after which no swallows of any species were reported.

Every species of northeastern finch moved through Region 6 this fall. Evening Grosbeaks appeared throughout the Region in mid-October and were reported at many feeders. The first Pine Grosbeak of the year was heard over Fort Drum on 13 October, but the majority of reports came from northern-most St. Lawrence County, where groups of up to 13 were seen by the end of November. An early White-winged Crossbill was at Whalen Park on the St. Lawrence River on 11 September, but the bulk of the crossbill flight came in late October and November, when groups of up to 25 Red Crossbills and 18 White-winged Crossbills were reported from many locations, especially near Lake Ontario. Common Redpolls were present in good numbers by early November, with Hoary Redpolls picked out of two flocks on Fort Drum on 13 and 24 November. For much of the fall it seemed impossible to spend any time outside without hearing Pine Siskins overhead.

The warbler migration was about average, with reasonably good numbers but no especially large pulses noted. On 5 September, while hiking the Cranberry Lake 50, Chris Wood found a Connecticut Warbler near Glasby Pond. Connecticut Warblers are rarely detected in Region 6, although a few probably sneak through most years, perhaps including in the Adirondacks. A Golden-winged Warbler on Fort Drum 8 September was a few days later than is typical, and surprisingly came from a location where no Blue-winged Warblers were found after August, unlike most recent years when the latter species has been fairly common through at least the first week of September. The 11 Orange-crowned Warblers seen between mid-September and mid-October is an above average tally, but not surprising given the number of birders afield.

The 233 species reported this fall is about nine above the most recent ten-year average, and the second-highest autumn tally in at least 15 years. The number of birders reporting to eBird in Region 6 continues to increase, which no doubt is the primary reason for this season's relatively high species tally. The continuing **Brown Pelican** was the highlight of the season, although this author wishes it would have stuck around for at least one more day. More cooperative were the Regionally rare **Hudsonian Godwits** at Whalen Park, including at least two that remained long enough for many St. Lawrence County birders to see it.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AFWMA – Ashland Flats WMA; **BPWMA** – Black Pd WMA; **CCSP** – Coles Creek SP; **CV** – T Cape Vincent; **CWF** – Canton Wastewater Treatment Facility; **DIS**—Dark Island Shoals; **ED**—El Dorado Shores Pres, T Ellisburg; **FD** – Fort Drum Military Reservation, JEFF & LEWI; **ICNC** – Indian Creek Nature Center, T Canton, STLA; **JEFF** – Jefferson County; **KC** – Kelsey Creek, T Watertown; **KPSP** – Kring Pt SP; **LBSF** – Lonesome Bay State Forest, T Hammond; **LEWI** – Lewis County; **LPSP** – Long Pt SP; **LWMA** – Lakeview WMA; **MM** – Massawepie Mire, T Colton & Piercefield, STLA; **MP** – Montario Pt, T Ellisburg; **PiPt** – Pillar Pt, JEFF; **PRWMA** – Perch Ri WMA, JEFF; **PtPen** – Pt Peninsula, T Lyme, JEFF; **RLT**—Richard’s Landing Trail, T Massena; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, T Massena; **RRT** – Remington Recreation Trail, T Canton; **RWSP** – Robert Wehle SP; **SBSP** – Southwick Beach SP; **SLR** – St. Lawrence Ri; **STLA** – St. Lawrence County; **StPt** – Stony Pt, T Henderson, JEFF; **TP** – Tibbits Pt, T Cape Vincent; **ULLWMA** – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton; **WBSP** – Westcott Beach SP; **WGR** – Whetstone Gulf Res; **WHWMA** – Wilson Hill WMA; **WISP** – Wellesley I SP; **WP** – Whalen P, T Louisville.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: only 16 reports 18 Sep thru; max 12 T Lowville 4 Nov (low).

Greater White-fronted Goose: RLT 23 Oct to 7 Nov (JB, mob).

Brant: arr TP 14 Oct; max 200 TP 25 Oct; only 2 other reports; low.

Cackling Goose: T Canton 9 Oct (NK, photos!); 3 FD 24 Nov (JB!); only reports.

Canada Goose: max 10880 FD 24 Nov heaviest flight of season.

Mute Swan: max 19 T Clayton 31 Oct.

Trumpeter Swan: max 10 PRWMA 25 Oct & Chippewa Bay 30 Oct.

Tundra Swan: arr TP 14 Oct; max 375 PtPen 27 Nov.

Wood Duck: max 136 LBSF 6 Sep; last LBSF 27 Nov.

Blue-winged Teal: max 340 WHWMA 27 Sep; last 4 WHWMA 17 Oct.

Northern Shoveler: max 10 CWF 14 Sep; last WHWMA 15 Nov.

Gadwall: max 40 WHWMA 9 Nov.

American Wigeon: max 1800 WHWMA 24 Oct; scarce after 15 Nov.

Mallard: max 1595 WHWMA 14 Nov.

American Black Duck: max 150 WHWMA 17 Oct.

Northern Pintail: max 510 WHWMA 11 Oct.

Green-winged Teal: max 1700 WHWMA 11 Oct, high.

Canvasback: f WHWMA 6-11 Nov only report.

Redhead: max 2400 WHWMA 24 Oct.

Ring-necked Duck: max 8750 WHWMA 7 Nov.

Greater Scaup: max 180 CV 14 Oct.

Lesser Scaup: max 18 WHWMA 24 Oct.

Surf Scoter: max 25 BPWMA 19 Nov; 3 other reports 1-2 each.

White-winged Scoter: max 125 ED 27 Nov.

Black Scoter: max 23 MP 27 Nov.

Long-tailed Duck: arr TP 4 Oct; max 1540 MP 27 Nov.

Bufflehead: arr WHWMA 17 Oct; max 80 PtPen 22 Nov.

Common Goldeneye: 3 arr Little Hammond Point 19 Sep (GS) early; next RLT 17 Oct; max 110 WBSP 27 Nov.

Hooded Merganser: max 75 Coles Creek T Louisville 10 Nov.

Common Merganser: max 148 Little Sucker Brook T Waddington 22 Nov.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 197 StPt 27 Nov.

Ruddy Duck: SLR T Massena 21 Sep; WHWMA 9-11 Nov; only reports.

Spruce Grouse: 2 MM 26 Sep (BB) only report.

Wild Turkey: max 54 T West Turin 28 Sep.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 47 ULLWMA 12 Oct; last WHWMA 15 Nov.

Horned Grebe: arr CV 6 Sep; max 4 WBSP 7 Nov.

Red-necked Grebe: arr WHWMA 20 Sep; max 2 RLT 23 Oct.

Mourning Dove: max 76 T Lyme 27 Nov.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last CV 22 Sep.

Black-billed Cuckoo: last Cranberry L 3 Sep.

Common Nighthawk: max 15 LBSF 15 Sep; last CV 16 Sep.

Eastern Whip-poor-will: last FD 1 Sep.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: last T Massena 21 Sep.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Virginia Rail: last FD 21 Sep.

Sora: last WHWMA 27 Sep.

Common Gallinule: max 20 PRWMA 4 Sep; last FD 21 Sep.

American Coot: max 171 WHWMA 31 Oct; singles RLT 17 Oct & AFWMA 14 Oct only other locations.

Sandhill Crane: 4 ULLWMA 19 Sep; T Croghan 2 Oct; only reports.

Black-bellied Plover: max 18 WP 7 Nov; last ED 27 Nov (JB) late.

American Golden-Plover: max 3 RLT 20 Sep; WGR 21-25 Sep (GC, RiR, RoR) rare LEWI; 10 additional reports JEFF & STLA.

Semipalmated Plover: max 24 PRWMA 3 Sep; last WHWMA 25 Oct.

Killdeer: max 74 WGR 9 Sep.

Hudsonian Godwit: juvs WP 20 Sep (JB), 3-4 Oct (BD, JB, mob) & 9 Nov (NK, TW, EW); excellent showing.

Ruddy Turnstone: 3 DIS 19 Sep (GSe) only report.

Stilt Sandpiper: PRWMA 3 Sep; WGR 9 Sep (GC) rare LEWI; only reports.

Sanderling: max 57 ED 25 Sep; last ED 7 Nov; 35 additional reports more than usual.

Dunlin: max 75 LWMA 10 Nov; last WP 29 Nov.

Baird's Sandpiper: PRWMA 4 & 23 Sep; ED 19-21 Sep; WHWMA 20 Sep.

Least Sandpiper: max 14 PRWMA 4 Sep.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 3 WP 8-11 Nov where last 14 Nov.

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 28 WP 24 Sep; last ED 7 Nov.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: about 12 reports 1-2 each JEFF; low.

American Woodcock: last FD 22 Sep.

Wilson's Snipe: last 3 Little Sucker Brook Park 19 Oct.

Spotted Sandpiper: last ICNC 28 Sep.

Solitary Sandpiper: last 2 LWMA 23 Oct.

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 10 WP 24 Sep; last 3 AFWMA 14 Oct.

Greater Yellowlegs: max 10 WGF 17 Sep; last T Louisville 20 Nov.

Red-necked Phalarope: T Clayton 10 Sep (BMu, photos!).

Black-legged Kittiwake: imm TP 15 Oct (SK, photos!).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 30 PilPt 4 Oct.

Iceland Gull: T Henderson 29 Nov only report.

Lesser Black-backed Gull:

Great Black-backed Gull: max 41 T Lyme 25 Nov.

Caspian Tern: last 2 RLT 24 Sep.

Black Tern: last DIS 3 Sep.

Common Tern: last 2 RLT 24 Sep.

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: max 3 CCSP 15 Nov; 6 additional observations L Ontario & SLR 31 Oct thru.

Common Loon: max 24 SLR Massena 18 Oct.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 2000 DIS 6 Sep;

BROWN PELICAN: juv found late Aug DIS continued to 2 Sep (mob, photos!).

American Bittern: last WP 24 Sep.

Least Bittern: last live LWMA 6 Sep; fresh carcass BPWMA 4 Nov (JC, photo!).

Great Egret: max 14 T Canton 28 Sep; last T Canton 28 Oct.

Green Heron: last WP 27 Sep.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: last 5 ULLWMA 19 Sep.

Turkey Vulture: last T Leray 8 Nov.

Osprey: last WISP 3 Oct.

Golden Eagle: 2 Frech Creek WMA 19 Sep (DD); Low's Ridge-Upper Dam trail 31 Oct (BB); ad FD 12 Nov (JB); WGR 13 Nov (MR).

Northern Harrier: many reports 5-10/day NW JEFF thru; mostly 1-3/day elsewhere thru.

Northern Goshawk: Dead Creek Flow trail 5 Sep.

Red-shouldered Hawk: last 2 RMSP 24 Oct only report after Sep.

Broad-winged Hawk: last 2 T Massena 21 Sep.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr FD 15 Oct.

Eastern Screech-Owl: Cranberry L 3 Sep (CW) unusual location; 3 reports NW JEFF where regular.

Snowy Owl: arr FD 13 Nov; 2 T Lyme 21-25 Nov & T Parishville 25 Nov only other reports.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: CV 14 Oct only report.
Red-headed Woodpecker: max 6 FD 4 Sep; 3 T Ellisburg 18 Sep high for anyplace away from FD.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 100+ reports expansion continues.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: T Potsdam 8 Nov & KC 21 Nov only reports after 14 Oct.
Black-backed Woodpecker: 2 Cranberry L 3-4 Sep & Horseshoe L 16 Oct only reports.
American Kestrel: more than usual lingering at end Nov.
Merlin: 50 reports of which only 5 in Nov.
Peregrine Falcon: 20 reports from 11 locations.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: last T Hammond 15 Sep.
Eastern Kingbird: max 15 FD 4 Sep; last FD 10 Sep
Olive-sided Flycatcher: Cranberry L 4 Sep only report.
Eastern Wood-Pewee: last ICNC 28 Sep.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last T Henderson 24 Sep.
Least Flycatcher: scarce after 23 Sep; last FD 14 Oct (JB) late.
Eastern Phoebe: last KC & T Canton 23 Oct.
Northern Shrike: arr FD 29 Oct.
Yellow-throated Vireo: last Clarkson Univ & FD 22 Sep.
Blue-headed Vireo: widespread departure 14 Oct; last Bog River Falls T Piercefield 22 Oct (JVG) late.
Philadelphia Vireo: max 8 T Hammond 12 Sep (GSm) high; 44 additional reports more than usual; last LPSP 14 Oct (SK) late.
Warbling Vireo: last ICNC 28 Sep.
Red-eyed Vireo: last Red Barn Preserve T Morristown 4 Oct.
Canada Jay: max 8 MM 8 Nov.
Blue Jay: conspicuous migration 15-26 Sep.
Horned Lark: arr FD & T Canton 14 Oct; max 67 FD 12 Nov.
Tree Swallow: max & last 105 ULLWMA 12 Sep; unusually scarce.
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: last ULLWMA 12 Sep.
Bank Swallow: last LWMA 6 Sep.
Cliff Swallow: last LWMA 6 Sep.
Barn Swallow: last 10 ULLWMA 12 Sep.

Tufted Titmouse: several dozen reports from about 24 locations; gradually increasing away from W JEFF stronghold.
House Wren: scarce after 5 Oct; last T Alexandria 23 Oct (ML) late.
Winter Wren: 3 T Ellisburg & Henderson 27 Nov good tally for so late.
Marsh Wren: last WHWMA 3 Oct.
Carolina Wren: 18 reports from 9 locations most in any one season during ebird era; max 3 T Hammond 30 Oct.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last ICNC 10 Sep (EW) late.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: migrants arr T Croghan 12 Sep.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Peavine Swamp trail 5 Sep possible breeder (CW); migrants arr T Hammond 11 Sep; last RRT 8 Nov.
Eastern Bluebird: max 18 RWSP 8 Oct;
Veery: 1st FD 17 Sep.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: last ICNC 9 Oct.
Swainson's Thrush: last Clarkson Univ 16 Oct.
Hermit Thrush: scarce after Oct.
Wood Thrush: last WHWMA 3 Oct.
Gray Catbird: scarce after 6 Oct; last FD 29 Oct.
Brown Thrasher: scarce after 23 Sep; last T Canton 11 Nov thru.
Bohemian Waxwing: arr FD 13 Nov; 11 T Lawrence 25 Nov only other report.
Cedar Waxwing: max 77 FD 17 Sep.
American Pipit: max 260 T Canton 9 Oct (NK) high; last WBSP 4 Nov.
Evening Grosbeak: widespread arr 18 Oct; max 40 T Canton 19 Oct.
Pine Grosbeak: arr FD 13 Oct; max 13 RLT 14 Nov.
House Finch: max 10 CV 15 Nov.
Purple Finch: scarce after mid-Nov.
Common Redpoll: arr RRT 25 Oct; max 390 FD 12 Nov.
Hoary Redpoll: FD 13 & 24 Nov (JB) only reports.
Red Crossbill: max 25 PtPen 7 Nov (SK); 20 other reports
White-winged Crossbill: arr WP 11 Sep (JB) only report before mid-Oct; max 18 ED 7 Nov (JT); 11 other reports.
Pine Siskin: max 78 FD 14 Oct.
American Goldfinch: max 150 T W Turin 9 Sep; only report > 40.
Lapland Longspur: arr RLT 23 Oct.
Snow Bunting: arr RLT 23 Oct; max 130 RLT 31 Oct.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: last PtPen 24 Oct.
American Tree Sparrow: arr T Canton 14 Oct.
Chipping Sparrow: scarce after 26 Oct; T Canton 26 Nov (BB) overwintering bird.
Clay-colored Sparrow: last WISP 19 Sep.
Field Sparrow: last FD 14 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: last FD 29 Oct.
Savannah Sparrow: last T Lyme 25 Oct.
Fox Sparrow: arr ICNC 19 Sep (JB) early; max 19 FD 29 Oct; last CV 22 Nov.
Lincoln's Sparrow: last FD 14 Oct.
Swamp Sparrow: scarce after 23 Oct.
White-throated Sparrow: max 150 FD 22 Oct.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr RRT 19 Sep; CV 22 Nov (KR) only report after 29 Oct.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 140 FD 29 Oct.
Bobolink: scarce after 8 Sep; last FD 22 Sep.
Eastern Meadowlark: max 24 RLT 17 Oct; last AFWMA 25 Oct.
Baltimore Oriole: no reports after 5 Sep except T Rodman feeder 25 Nov thru (HH, photos!).
Red-winged Blackbird: max 1650 ULLWMA 11 Oct.
Brown-headed Cowbird: scarce after Oct.
Rusty Blackbird: max 120 T Canton 4 Nov.
Common Grackle: max 3000 KPSP 15 Sep.
Ovenbird: last T Rodman 29 Oct.
Northern Waterthrush: last LPSP 26 Sep (SK) late.
Golden-winged Warbler: last FD 8 Sep.
"Brewster's" Warbler: FD 8 Sep only report.
Black-and-white Warbler: last ICNC 28 Sep.
Tennessee Warbler: last FD 22 Oct (JB) late.

Orange-crowned Warbler: 11 between 22 Sep & 22 Oct.
Nashville Warbler: last FD 15 Oct.
Connecticut Warbler: Glasby Pond 5 Sep (CW!) rarely seen R6.
Mourning Warbler: T Clayton 19 Sep (DD) only report.
Common Yellowthroat: last FD 29 Oct.
American Redstart: last Hitchins Pond 28 Sep.
Cape May Warbler: last Hitchins Pond 4 Oct.
Northern Parula: last FD 5 Oct.
Magnolia Warbler: last FD 6 Oct.
Bay-breasted Warbler: last CV 4 Oct.
Blackburnian Warbler: last LPSP 28 Sep.
Yellow Warbler: last FD 28 Sep.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: last CV 22 Sep.
Blackpoll Warbler: last T Lyme 14 Oct.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: last SBSP 11 Oct.
Palm Warbler: last RWSP 11 Oct.
Pine Warbler: last FD 5 Oct.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: last WBSP 4 Nov.
Prairie Warbler: FD 1 Sep only report.
Black-throated Green Warbler: last CV & FD 14 Oct.
Canada Warbler: last T Lyme 23 Sep.
Wilson's Warbler: last RRT 6 Oct.
Scarlet Tanager: last FD 2 Oct.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last T West Carthage 7 Oct.
Indigo Bunting: last RRT 1 Oct.

EXOTICS

Red-crested Pochard: f WHWMA 17-25 Oct then RLT 31 Oct (JB, BD, NK, mob).

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REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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In September Region 7's average temperatures were within a degree of normal except in the High Peaks region where they were 1-3° below normal for the month. The High Peaks also stood out as the wettest area of Region 7 with 3-4" of rainfall. Overall precipitation in Region 7 was from 2-3" except along the border with Canada, which was drier and received only 1-2".

Temperatures in October remained near normal, averaging less than a degree of

deviation up or down almost everywhere in Region 7. The exceptions were a pocket in central Clinton County from Lake Champlain into Franklin County which was 1-3° warmer than normal, and a small area including Lake Placid and Saranac Lake which was 1-3° cooler than average. Precipitation varied wildly across the Region; in October most of the Champlain Valley averaged 2-3", while northeastern Franklin County measured 5-6" of rain. Otherwise rainfall averaged 3-4" everywhere except in the Lake Placid/Saranac Lake area and much of the rest of Franklin County where it averaged 4-5".

November was an exceptionally warm month, especially in the northern portion of Region 7. Along the border with Canada and well into Franklin and Clinton Counties average temperatures were 5-7° above normal. This deviation from normal diminished to the south through a zone across Clinton and Franklin Counties where temperatures were only 3-5° above normal. In almost all of Essex and Hamilton Counties temperatures averaged only 1-3° above normal with the exception of the High Peaks where there was little deviation from the norm. In the Champlain Valley and the western half of Franklin County precipitation (melted equivalent) ranged from 1-2". The rest of Region 7 received 2-3" except for the High Peaks which got 3-4".

The water level of Lake Champlain continued the steady decline of the summer throughout September, reflecting the lower than normal rainfall totals cited above. The already low value of 94.5' on 1 September dropped to 93.65' at the end of the month. Heavy rains at the beginning of October resulted in a one day increase to 93.9' (3"). From there it drifted randomly up and down to 94.2' on 30 November. At these levels the mud flats at the Chazy Riverlands were high and dry, but additional shorebird habitat was exposed at Noblewood Park and the Ausable River delta.

The Winter Finch Forecast suggested that this would not be a flight year for Pine Grosbeak except for some small movement from poor crop areas. Despite the forecast, a steady Regional influx of the species began on 7 November when three individuals were discovered at Webb Royce Swamp in Essex. By the end of the season, Pine Grosbeak was widespread and well represented in each of the four counties in Region 7. The forecast that Red Crossbills would drift south was verified by more than twenty reports. Six records of White-winged Crossbills came mostly from Bloomingdale Bog. November marked the beginning of an historic flight year for redpolls, especially in the Champlain Valley where a maximum of 200 individuals was found foraging in a hayfield in Essex on 27 November. This same flock hosted at least two Hoary Redpolls. Additional single Hoary Redpolls were documented further north and south of this location. Also, as predicted, it was a good flight year for Evening Grosbeak and a poor one for Bohemian Waxwing, with only two reports of the latter.

Pink-footed Goose has almost become a regular. After its first Region 7 appearance at two separate locations in 2017, it has been reported each of the following years. This year's record was from the same Franklin County site as the first. Photographic evidence that the 2020 and 2017 sightings were of the same bird has been submitted to NYSARC. Reports of **Trumpeter Swan**, which first appeared in Region 7 in March of this year, continued into the fall with a report of an individual bird in September and a family group of two adults and two immatures in November.

A **Whimbrel** found at Plattsburgh City Beach/Cumberland Bay SP was present for a week. Rare for Region 7, this was the first record since 2011 according to eBird and only the tenth in the last 56 years in the other available records. The **Purple Sandpiper** found at Stony Point in Clinton County constituted the only eBird record in the last ten years and was only the seventh for the Region dating from the inception of *The Kingbird* in 1950. The **Herring Gull X Great Black-backed Gull** hybrid present in July and August was seen

again in October. Since 2010 Region 7 has averaged one **Golden Eagle** sighting each fall. This fall's total of six reports is a remarkably strong showing. After its nine day spring stay at Crown Point (a Region 7 first), **Say's Phoebe** reappeared at the same location for a single day in November. It is not known whether these sightings were of the same bird. **Fox Sparrow** also had remarkably strong fall showing with 26 eBird reports. For comparison there were four in 2019, 13 in 2018 and one in 2017. The **Orange-crowned Warbler** found at Crown Point was only the tenth fall record in the last ten years.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AFR – Altona Flat Rock; **AFT** – Art Farm Trail; **AHR** – Angier Hill Rd; **AM** – Ausable Marsh WMA; **AP** – Ausable Pt; **APN** – Ausable Point, north of entrance; **ARD** – Ausable Ri Delta; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog; **BMR** – Blue Mt Rd; **BRM** – Boquet Ri Mouth; **BRR** – Bull Rock Rd; **CHSP** – Cumberland Head SP; **CMt** – Catamount Mt; **CP** – Crown Pt; **CpP** – Carpenter's Pd; **CR** – Chazy Riverlands; **Rd** – Christian Rd; **CRW** – Cemetery Rd. Wetlands; **CtH** – Coot Hill; **DMA** – Dewey Mt Area; **EC** – Essex Co; **EG** – Ellers Grove; **Es** – Essex; **Et** – Elizabethtown; **FMR** – Four Mile Rd; **FrC** – Franklin County; **FRd** – Forestdale Rd; **GCB** – Gadway Cement Barrons; **GCBL** – Great Chazy Boat Launch; **GPK** – Grace Peak; **Ham** – Hamilton Co; **HB** – Holsington Beach; **HPd** – Hutchings Pd; **ILk** – Indian L; **Inl** – Inlet; **IR** – Indian Ri; **KB** – Kings Bay; **KLk** – Kiwassa L; **LA** – Lake Alice; **LCo** – Lake Colby; **LCTM** – Lower La Chute Ticonderoga Marsh; **LF** – Lake Flower; **Mad** – Madawaska; **Mal** – Malone; **MBM** – Monty Bay Marina; **ML** – Meacham L; **MM** – Maple Meadows; **MMt** – Macomb Mt; **MRP** – Malone Rec P; **MRR** – Mary Riley Rd; **NP** – Noblewood P; **OPd** – Osgood Pd; **OR** – Osgood Ri; **PA** – Piseco Airport; **PB** – Plattsburgh; **PCB** – Plattsburgh City Beach; **PCo** – Pickets Corners; **PD** – Port Douglas; **PPd** – Putnam Pd; **PS** – Paul Smiths; **PtR** – Point Au Roche SP; **RB** – Ray Brook; **RL** – Raquette L; **RMt** – Rattlesnake Mt; **RP** – Rouses Pt; **SB** – Sandy Beach; **SC** – Sabattis Circle Rd; **SF** – Schuyler Falls; **SP** – Stony Pt; **Spk** – Santanoni Peak; **SRCA** – Saint Regis Canoe Area; **SRg** – Seward Range; **SRM** – Saranac Ri mouth; **TFBL** – Ticonderoga Ferry and boat launch; **TI** – Ticonderoga; **TL** – Tupper L; **TR** – Trimble Rd; **UCR** – Upper Chubb Ri; **WI** – Willsboro; **WME** – lake east of Wickham Marsh; **WP** – Westport; **WPt** – Wilsboro Pt; **WRS** – Webb Royce Swamp.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: PCo 23 Sep (KH); 10,000 CR 11 Nov (BK).

Ross's Goose: KB 7 Nov (SR).

Greater White-fronted Goose: MRP 18 Oct (SR).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: MRP 21 Nov (JHo); MRP 24 Nov (SR).

Brant: 127 CP 9 Oct (RR).

Cackling Goose: 11 MRP 18 Oct (SR).

TRUMPETER SWAN (R7): SRM 27 Sep (BK); 4 AP 21 Nov (KJ).

Wood Duck: 73 LCTM 21 Sep (SR).

Blue-winged Teal: 25 CR 1 Sep (AB), Co-FL.

Northern Shoveler: 9 CP 10 Sep (SR).

Gadwall: 4 CP 10 Oct (JS).

American Wigeon: 14 CP 11 Oct (JB).

American Black Duck: OPd 9 Sep (AB), Co-FL.

Northern Pintail: 23 CP 9 Nov (ME).

Green-winged Teal: 6 CR 1 Sep (AB), Co-FL.

Canvasback: KB 12 Nov (SR).

Redhead: 6 AM 10 Oct (LM).

Ring-necked Duck: 88 TL 29 Sep (AB).

Greater Scaup: 200 PCB 17 Oct (AB).

Lesser Scaup: 125 GCBL 12 Nov (SR).

Surf Scoter: ML 3 Oct (CF).

White-winged Scoter: PCB 16 Oct (DRg).

Black Scoter: arr, CP 3 Oct (SR); 27 SB 25 Oct (SR).

Long-tailed Duck: AM 10 Oct (LM); 11 SB 25 Oct (SR).

Bufflehead: 24 LCo 12 Nov (JS).

Common Goldeneye: 67 NP 12 Nov (SR).

Barrow's Goldeneye: SRM 29 Oct (SR); NP 8 Nov (SR).

Hooded Merganser: 40 SRCA 3 Sep (AB), Co-FL.

Common Merganser: 41 LF 23 Nov (JHo).

Red-breasted Merganser: 24 SP 7 Nov (SR).

Ring-necked Pheasant: 3 CRd 29 Nov (BMc).

Ruffed Grouse: 11 FMR 29 Nov (BBg).

Wild Turkey: 13 Inl 12 Sep (AK), Co-FL.

Pied-billed Grebe: 4 CR 1 Sep (AB), Co-FL.

Horned Grebe: CP 15 Sep (JHa); 11 Np 3 Oct (MM).

Red-necked Grebe: WME 17 Sep (SR).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: PS 11 Sep (ML).

Black-billed Cuckoo: HB 6 Sep (BMc).

Common Nighthawk: 2 SRd 8 Sep (GD).

Eastern Whip-poor-will: WI 5 Sep (MM).

Chimney Swift: 4 PIR 1 Sep (AB).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: BRR 9 Sep (G&MC).

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Sora: SRd 8 Sep (GD).

Common Gallinule: LCTM 21 Sep (SR).

American Coot: 21 CP 29 Oct (JE).

Black-bellied Plover: RL 12 Sep (GL), v. rare Hami, ph; 3 KB 17 Sep (SR).

American Golden Plover: APN 13 Sep (DRg); RL 12 Sep (GL), rare Hami, ph.

Semipalmated Plover: 11 ARD 4 Sep (DRg).

WHIMBREL (R7): PCB 5-12 Sep (AB).

Ruddy Turnstone: NP 16 Sep (MG).

Sanderling: 14 ARD 4 Sep (DRg).

Dunlin: 22 APN 18 Oct (SR).

PURPLE SANDPIPER (R7): SP 7 Nov (SR).

Baird's Sandpiper: 3 ARD 4 Sep (DRg); KB 17 Sep (SR).

Least Sandpiper: 13 ARD 4 Sep (DRg).

White-rumped Sandpiper: CP 1 Oct (SR).

Pectoral Sandpiper: MRR 3 Sep (SR).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2 ARD 4 Sep (DRg).

Long-billed Dowitcher: MBM 12 Sep (AB).

American Woodcock: MM 31 Oct (SR).

Wilson's Snipe: 2 GCBL 12 Nov (SR).

Spotted Sandpiper: 6 CP 1 Sep (SR).

Solitary Sandpiper: 3 AP 3 Sep (EP).

Lesser Yellowlegs: 3 AM 6 Sep (LM).

Greater Yellowlegs: 3 AM 6 Sep (LM).

Red-necked Phalarope: KLk 13 Sep (LK), ph.

Bonaparte's Gull: 180 WI 4 Sep (MM).

Little Gull: 2 ARD 3 Sep (DRg).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: SRM 6 & 17 Sep (DRg, SR); 2 CP 3 Oct (SR).

Glaucous Gull: SRM 19 Nov (SR).

Great Black-backed Gull: 31 SRM 24 Nov (JS).

HERRING X GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: NP 2 Oct (DRg).

Caspian Tern: 6 CR 1 Sep (AB).

Common Tern: 2 SB 17 Oct (SR).

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: SB 21 Oct (SR).

Common Loon: 13 LCI 15 Sep (AB), Co-FL.

Double-crested Cormorant: 3000 PIF 6 Sep (GF).

American Bittern: SC 4 Oct (M&SP).

Great Blue Heron: MRP 26 Nov (JS).

Great Egret: 12 CP 11 Sep (SR).

Green Heron: CP 11 Oct (JB).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 7 LCTM 5 Sep (AB), Co-FL.

Black Vulture: Ctl 23 Sep (NO, MS); 24 TI 25 Nov (JR).
Turkey Vulture: 18 TI 7 Oct (GC).
Osprey: 2 AM 14 Oct (OS).
GOLDEN EAGLE (R7): PPd 16 Sep (KMCA); Ham 6 Nov (GF); WRS 7 Nov (JB, ML, BMC); SF 10 Nov (TF); GCB 14 Nov (ABd); 2 Mal 15 Nov (AB, JB).
Northern Harrier: CR 12 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: AM 5 Sep (KMCA); OR 9 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
Cooper's Hawk: BRR 14 Oct (G&MC).
Northern Goshawk: MMt 5 Sep (NK); IR 15 Sep (AVK); ML 27 Nov (JCH).
Bald Eagle: OPd 9 Sep (AB), Co-FL; 3 CP 30 Nov (ZC).
Red-shouldered Hawk: Et 9 Oct (RB).
Broad-winged Hawk: LCo 8 Sep (AB); Co-FL; 12 CP 15 Sep (JH).
Red-tailed Hawk: 3 RMt 22 Sep (OS).
Rough-legged Hawk: AP 25 Oct (JS).
Eastern Screech Owl: LA 12 Sep (AB).
Great Horned Owl: 2 TI 4 Oct (MMr).
Snowy Owl: CR 13 Nov (JP).
Barred Owl: 2 PIR 1 Oct (GFG).
Northern Saw-whet Owl: RB 12 Oct (AB).
Belted Kingfisher: MRP 24 Nov (SR).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 2 NP 5 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 3 NP 5 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
Black-backed Woodpecker: BMR 23 Sep (CG); BB 11 Nov (TD).
Pileated Woodpecker: 3 AM 20 Sep (BBG).
American Kestrel: 6 FRd 3 Sep (SR).
Merlin: 3 BB 29 Sep.
Peregrine Falcon: SRM 30 Sep (LS, CS).

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: CP 10 Sep (SR).
Eastern Kingbird: LP 2 Sep (RE).
Olive-sided Flycatcher: NP 14 Sep (BB).
Eastern Wood-Pewee: TI 18 Oct (MMr), late.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: SC 8 Sep (GD).
Least Flycatcher: SB 26 Sep (SR).
Eastern Phoebe: 2 NP 5 Sep (AB), Co-FL; CPF 29 Nov (OS), late.
SAY'S PHOEBE: CP 15 Nov (SH).
N. Shrike: AFT 25 Oct (DRg).
Yellow-throated Vireo: PPd 1 Sep (KMCA).
Blue-headed Vireo: 3 LCo 8 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
Philadelphia Vireo: FRd 3 Sep (SR); LA 22 Sep (KA).
Warbling Vireo: 5 WP 5 Sep (OS).

Red-eyed Vireo: 10 LCo 4 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
Canada Jay: 4 OR 9 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
Fish Crow: 3 CHSP 6 Sep (AB), Co-FL; 22 PB 17 Sep (SR), Co-FY.
Common Raven: 26 CRW 26 Oct (LM).
Horned Lark: 62 CP 11 Nov (SR).
Tree Swallow: 20 CP 15 Sep (JHa).
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: 2 LCo 4 Sep (AB).
Bank Swallow: CP 1 Sep (SR).
Barn Swallow: 2 CP 10 Sep (ED).
Boreal Chickadee: 12 SRg 26 Sep (NK); many other scattered reports.
Tufted Titmouse: 3 Par 13 Sep (EG), Co-FL.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: 12 NP 5 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
House Wren: 4 MM 2 Sep (SR).
Winter Wren: 2 Mad 15 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
Marsh Wren: 8 LCTM 5 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
Carolina Wren: 4 MM 3 Sep (SR), Co-FY.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: LCTM 5 Sep (AB).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 5 LCo 13 Sep (AB); Co-FL.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 5 SPk 27 Sep (JR).
Veery: 2 PS 1 Sep (PS).
Gray-cheeked Thrush: RL 19 Sep (GLW).
Bicknell's Thrush: GPK 5 Sep (NK).
Swainson's Thrush: 33 PS 14 Sep (ML).
Hermit Thrush: CP 1 Nov (SR).
Wood Thrush: SB 28 Sep (SR).
Gray Catbird: KB 7 Nov (PP), late.
Brown Thrasher: 2 Es 20 Sep (DRg).
Northern Mockingbird: SRM 7 Nov (SR).
Bohemian Waxwing: WP 10 Nov (JT, PT); max 33 WP 19-22 Nov (SR, BMC, JS, JB, RB).
Cedar Waxwing: 25 LP 29 Oct (SR).
American Pipit: WPt 5 Sep (MM); 80 TR 28 Oct (SR).
Evening Grosbeak: 4 AFT 9 Oct (DRg); 75 FR 19 Nov (JF).
Pine Grosbeak: arr 3 WRS 7 Sep (BMC, ML, JB, ph). max 30 MRP 29 Nov, reps in all counties.
Purple Finch: 4 SRCA 5 Oct (SMC).
Common Redpoll: arr BB 11 Oct (mob, ph); max 200 CRd 27 Nov (DRg); *intro*.
Hoary Redpoll: 2 CRd 27 Nov (DRg, ph); WPt 28 Nov (DRg); AHR 28 Nov (SR).
Red Crossbill (type 10): TBFL 18 Sep (GC).
White-winged Crossbill: arr 2 EG 20 Oct (BMC); max 9 BB 5-25 Nov (BMC); 7 DMA 9 Nov (JS).
American Goldfinch: 5 Par 13 Sep (EG); Co-FL.
Lapland Longspur: 5 PA 22 Nov (CK).
Snow Bunting: 49 CP 30 Oct (OS).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: SL 4 Oct (JS).
American Tree Sparrow: PS 27 Oct (ML).
Chipping Sparrow: 25 NP 4 Sep (MM); 3 HB 7 Nov (BMc).
Field Sparrow: 2 WP 27 Oct (OS).
Vesper Sparrow: 2 KN 21 Oct (LM).
Savannah Sparrow: 2 CP 4 Oct (JS).
Fox Sparrow: BRR 16 Oct (G&MC); 6 BRR 31 Oct (G&MC).
Lincoln's Sparrow: 4 PG 11 Sep (OS).
Swamp Sparrow: LCTM 5 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
White-throated Sparrow: 21 TI 17 Oct (MMr).
White-crowned Sparrow: TL 23 Sep (GL).
Dark-eyed Junco: 250 PS 28 Oct (ML).
Eastern Meadowlark: 2 RP 16 Sep (SRo).
Baltimore Oriole: 3 CP 1 Sep (SR).
Brown-headed Cowbird: 14 WP 7 Nov (RB).
Rusty Blackbird: 2 LA 23 Sep (SR).
Ovenbird: Cat 3 Oct (ZC).
Northern Waterthrush: EC 18 Sep (BB).
Black and White Warbler: 4 Fed 3 Sep (SR).
Tennessee Warbler: By 18 Oct (AB), late.
Orange-crowned Warbler: CP 24 Sep (SR), rare.
Nashville Warbler: SB 6 Nov (SR), late.
Mourning Warbler: CP 5 Sep (SR).
Common Yellowthroat: 4 BB 12 Sep (JS).

American Redstart: HPd 28 Sep (KS).
Cape May Warbler: 6 SCR 8 Sep (GD).
Northern Parula: 5 LCo 8 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
Magnolia Warbler: 3 WI 11 Sep (BG).
Bay-breasted Warbler: PD 18 Oct (DRg), late.
Blackburnian Warbler: 1 LCo 13 Sep (AB); Co-FL.
Yellow Warbler: Es 20 Sep (DRg).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: WPt 19 Sep (DRg).
Blackpoll Warbler: 6 LMT 11 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 2 Ilk 12 Sep (AK), Co-FY.
Palm Warbler: 2 LCo 13 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
Pine Warbler: 2 SRCA 24 Sep (MC).
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 20 LMT 11 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
Prairie Warbler: TI 24 Sep (MMR).
Black-throated Green Warbler: 5 LCo 13 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
Canada Warbler: UCR 9 Sep (G&MC).
Wilson's Warbler: CpP 5 Sep (JL); CP 24 Sep (SR).
Scarlet Tanager: BRR 7 Oct (MC).
Northern Cardinal: 3 MM 4 Sep (SR), Co-FY.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: LCo 8 Sep (AB), Co-FL.
Indigo Bunting: ILk 7 Nov (MMo).

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REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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	Albany			Glens Falls		
Temp	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Sep	59.7°	61.9°	-2.2°	58.1°	58.5°	-0.4°
Oct	48.9°	49.8°	-0.9°	48.4°	46.7°	+1.7°
Nov	41.0°	42.3°	+1.3°	40.1°	36.9°	+3.2°
Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Sep	2.63"	3.30"	-0.67"	2.80"	3.38"	-0.58"
Oct	3.13"	3.68"	-0.55"	2.59"	3.51"	-0.92"
Nov	3.69"	3.29"	+0.40"	3.61"	3.31"	+0.30"

The weather in September 2020 was primarily warm and dry, despite a cold spell during the third week. Overnight temperatures touched freezing twice but no sub-freezing lows were recorded at Albany. Two inches of rain fell over the last two days of September, accounting for most of the monthly total in an otherwise abnormally dry period. October featured near-normal temperatures and rainfall on balance. The last week of the month turned cold, and the first measurable snowfall occurred on the 30th. November 2020 had some wild swings up and down but both temperature and precipitation ended up near the long-term average. Only a trace of snow was tallied at Albany.

The bird of the season was most definitely the **Sage Thrasher** found on 4 November by Barbara Sylvester, at Ooms Conservation Area near Chatham, Columbia County. She spotted an unusual bird, photographed it, and shared an image to the “What’s This Bird” Facebook Group for identification help. Many birders from around the state were able to observe and photograph this bird, as it was very loyal to a particular area at the edge of Sutherland Pond, where it would often pop up to eat buckthorn fruits to the delight of photographers.

Honorable mention goes to the **Nelson’s Sparrow** found by Naomi Lloyd and the Thursday Morning Group at the Lisha Kill outlet beneath the Ferry Rd. bridge in Niskayuna on 22 October. Although not particularly rare in much of the rest of New York State, Region 8 had not had one reported since the 1960s! The bird was spotted briefly the following morning as well.

A large movement of Tundra Swans was noted throughout southern New England and eastern New York on 28 November. Twenty-six were spotted resting on the Great Sacandaga Reservoir near the boat launch in Broadalbin, eight at Loughberry Lake in Saratoga Springs, and a pair at Round Lake Preserve in Saratoga County. A single Common Tern was reported from Saratoga Lake on 4 October. **Red-headed Woodpecker** was observed in two locations this fall. David Harrison had a flyover bird at Cobleskill Reservoir, Schoharie County on 30 September. Jeff Nadler watched an adult bird alight on a tree trunk as he was driving near the south entrance to Saratoga National Historical Park on 22 October.

As the irruption of winter finches and cohorts continued to develop through the autumn, Gary Chapin was observing a group of **White-winged Crossbills**, Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins on 22 November at Amy’s Park, which is located north of Bolton in Warren County. At one point he realized that he was hearing the wheezy call of a **Boreal Chickadee** among a group of Black-capped Chickadees nearby. He was able to get brief, but diagnostic looks at the bird, and obtained a snippet of audio recording before it moved on. He was at 1075 feet elevation at the time. This is one of only a handful of recent encounters in Region 8, the last being in 2010 at Partridge Run State Forest in Albany County (approximate elevation 1700 feet).

Evening Grosbeaks became an early component of the “winter” invasion toward the end of October. Multiple reports arrived on 22 October and the species was suddenly widespread thereafter. Common Redpoll was next, arriving in good numbers areawide in the first week of November, with a report of **Hoary Redpoll** at Bog Meadow Brook in Saratoga County on 22 November. **Pine Grosbeak** followed, favoring previously utilized locations in Warren County, although a few ventured as far south as Albany County. Even **White-winged Crossbill** joined the roster of irruptors, moving into the Region in small numbers.

Marion Sole was pleasantly surprised by a **Yellow-breasted Chat** that popped up right in front of her in a thicket at Overmountain Conservation Area in Columbia County

on 21 October. The location is along the northern boundary of the current expected range of that elusive species in our area.

231 species were reported during the period.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

APBP – Albany Pine Bush Pres, ALBA; **AR** – Alcove Res, ALBA; **BCM** – Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; **BCR** – Basic Creek Res, ALBA; **BMB** – Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail, SARA; **CCGP** – Cossackie Creek Grasslands Pres, GREE; **CF** – Cohoes Flats, ALBA; **CL** – Collins L, SCHE; **CRM** – Cline Rd. Marsh, FULT; **FR** – Five Rivers EEC, ALBA; **FtEG** – Ft. Edward Grasslands, WASH; **FV** – Franklinton Vlaie, SCHO; **HP** – Huyck Pres, ALBA; **OCA** – Ooms Conservation Area, COLU; **PRWMA** – Partridge Run WMA, ALBA; **SNHP** – Saratoga National Historical P, SARA; **TR** – Tomhannock Res, RENN; **VFNHP** – Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Pres, SARA; **WMP** – Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary, COLU.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: max 250 Charlton SARA 23 Nov.

Greater White-fronted Goose: Brunswick RENS 19 Oct; Schaghticoke RENS 31 Oct; Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 17 Nov.

Brant: max 304 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 27 Oct.

Canada Goose: max 4176 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 27 Oct.

Mute Swan: max 6 BCR 28 Nov.

Tundra Swan: 26 Great Sacandaga L Boat Launch FULT 28 Nov; 8 Loughberry L SARA 28 Nov; 2 Round L Pres SARA 28 Nov.

Wood Duck: max 75 Wagers Pd SARA 17 Sep.

Blue-winged Teal: max 68 Cohoes Flats ALBA 23 Sep.

Northern Shoveler: max 9 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 24 Oct.

Gadwall: max 78 Stanton Pd ALBA 26 Oct.

American Wigeon: max 121 Stanton Pd ALBA 16 Oct.

Mallard: max 434 Saratoga L SARA 19 Nov.

American Black Duck: max 49 Clemons Marsh WASH 15 Nov.

Northern Pintail: max 16 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 7 Oct.

Green-winged Teal: max 179 Clemons Marsh WASH 15 Nov.

Redhead: 3 Nassau L RENS 29 Oct; 2 BCR 4 Nov; 2 Loughberry L SARA 28 Nov.

Ring-necked Duck: max 600 Loughberry L SARA 30 Nov.

Greater Scaup: max 15 Loughberry L SARA 11 Nov.

Lesser Scaup: max 250 Loughberry L SARA 20 Nov.
Surf Scoter: 5 Copkae L COLU 26 Oct; 4 Saratoga L SARA 24 Oct; 2 Galway L SARA 26 Oct; 2 Rexford SARA 26 Oct; 2 Saratoga L SARA 28 Oct; 2 Great Sacandaga Res FULT 28 Oct.
White-winged Scoter: max 17 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 27 Oct.
Black Scoter: max 112 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 25 Oct.
Long-tailed Duck: max 3 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 27 Oct.
Bufflehead: max 53 BCR 21 Nov.
Common Goldeneye: max 65 Blockhouse P SARA 21 Nov.
Hooded Merganser: max 130 Galway L SARA 15 Nov.
Common Merganser: max 500 TR 8 Nov.
Red-breasted Merganser: 8 Great Sacandaga Res FULT 28 Oct; 6 Stony Kill, Chatham COLU 9 Oct.
Ruddy Duck: max 425 BCR 14 Oct.
Ruffed Grouse: max 5 Shaker Mt WF FULT 26 Sep.
Wild Turkey: max 56 Ft Ann WASH 30 Nov.
Pied-billed Grebe: 4 Cossayuna L WASH 31 Oct.
Horned Grebe: max 3 Copake L COLU 22 Oct.
Red-necked Grebe: max 3 TR 17 Oct.
Rock Pigeon: max 270 Overlook P, Cohoes ALBA 28 Nov.
Mourning Dove: max 84 Normanskill Farm ALBA 8 Nov.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: last Colonie ALBA 12 Oct.
Black-billed Cuckoo: last Kinderhook COLU 18 Oct, late.
Common Nighthawk: last Hoosick Falls RENS 29 Sep.
Chimney Swift: max 45 Round L Pres SARA 1 Sep; last Overmountain Cons Area COLU 25 Sep.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 6 Corkscrew Rail Trail RENS 5 Sep; last Yankee Hill Lock MONT 6 Oct.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Virginia Rail: max 3 Clemons Marsh WASH 15 Sep; last Knox Wetland ALBA 9 Nov.
Sora: max 3 CRM 3 Sep; last Clemons Marsh WASH 28 Sep.
Common Gallinule: max 3 Bowmaker Pd SCHO 7 Sep; last East Bay WMA 6 Oct.

American Coot: 24 Clermont SP COLU 20 Oct; 7 Robinson Pd COLU 19 Oct; 3 Stanton Pd ALBA 31 Oct.
Black-bellied Plover: CF 22 Sep.
American Golden-Plover: 2 CF 21-25 Sep.
Semipalmated Plover: max 22 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 2 Oct; last Clemons Marsh WASH 9 Nov, late.
Killdeer: max 40 The Crossings ALBA 18 Sep; last Queensbury WARR 29 Nov, late.
Ruddy Turnstone: CF 7 Sep.
Stilt Sandpiper: Clemons Marsh Wash 28 Sep.
Sanderling: 4 CF 21 Sep.
Dunlin: 8 TR 27 Oct; 6 Watervliet Res ALBA 26 Oct; 4 Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 8 Nov.
Least Sandpiper: max 60 Clemons Marsh WASH 28 Sep; last Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 6 Oct.
White-rumped Sandpiper: Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 8-9 Nov.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: CF 8 Sep.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 39 Clemons Marsh WASH 28 Sep; last TR 7 Nov.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 15 Center Hill Pd COLU 2 Sep; last Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 6 Oct.
American Woodcock: max 3 APBP 22 Sep; last Helderberg Workshop ALBA 31 Oct.
Wilson's Snipe: max 3 Clemons Marsh WASH 15 Sep; last APBP 25 Nov.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 20 Great Sacandaga Res FULT 25 Sep; last 4 Peebles I SP SARA 14 Oct.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 6 Schaghticoke RENS 13 Sep; last Schenectady Co Forest Pres SCHE 8 Nov, late.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 30 Clemons Marsh WASH 28 Sep; last Schenectady Co Forest Pres SCHE 8 Nov, late.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 20 Clemons Marsh WASH 28 Sep; last Clemons Marsh WASH 15 Nov.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 15 Amsterdam MONT 15 Sep; last Overlook P, Cohoes ALBA 14 Nov.
Ring-billed Gull: max 993 CF 3 Oct.
Herring Gull: max 79 Corning Riverfront P ALBA 8 Nov.
Iceland Gull: arr Saratoga L SARA 29 Oct.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: arr CF 3 Nov.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 36 Overlook P, Cohoes ALBA 28 Nov.
Caspian Tern: max 2 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 1-4 Sep.

Common Tern: Saratoga L SARA 4 Oct.

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: 2 Ballston L SARA 1 Nov; Saratoga L SARA 17 Nov; Great Sacandaga Res FULT 28 Nov.

Common Loon: max 10 Saratoga L SARA 31 Oct.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 250 Olana SHS COLU 5 Oct.

American White Pelican: Hudson COLU 21-25 Jul.

American Bittern: last Catskill GREE 20 Sep.

Great Blue Heron: max 17 Clemons Marsh WASH 1 Oct.

Great Egret: max 26 Clemons Marsh WASH 1 Oct; last Colonie Mohawk River P ALBA 1 Nov.

Green Heron: max 5 Clemons Marsh WASH 7 Sep; last VFNHP 8 Oct.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: CF 16 Sep; last Clemons Marsh WASH 9 Nov, late.

Black Vulture: max 17 Copake COLU 24 Oct.

Turkey Vulture: max 170 Livingston COLU 6 Oct.

Osprey: max 5 Helderberg Hawk Watch ALBA 18 Sep; last TR 19 Nov, late.

Golden Eagle: arr White Creek WASH 4 Oct.

Northern Harrier: max 4 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 25 Oct.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 8 Helderberg Hawk Watch ALBA 16 Sep.

Cooper's Hawk: max 10 Helderberg Hawk Watch ALBA 19 Sep.

Bald Eagle: max 16 Helderberg Hawk Watch ALBA 18 Sep.

Broad-winged Hawk: max 1148 Helderberg Hawk Watch ALBA 14 Sep; last West L FULT 21 Oct.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 38 Helderberg Hawk Watch ALBA 19 Sep.

Rough-legged Hawk: arr Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 7 Nov.

Eastern Screech-Owl: max 2 Athens GREE 26 Sep; Voorheesville ALBA 11 Oct.

Great Horned Owl: max 4 Ballston SARA 18 Nov.

Snowy Owl: arr Mohawk MONT 2 Nov, only report.

Barred Owl: max 4 Ft Ann WASH 4 Oct; Rensselaerville SF ALBA 9 Oct.

Short-eared Owl: arr FIEG 20 Nov.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: arr Amy's P WASH 26 Sep.

Belted Kingfisher: max 5 Clemons Marsh WASH 15 Sep; Ft Ann WASH 19 Sep.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (R8):

Cobleskill Res SCHO 30 Sep (DH); SNHP 22 Oct (JN), *intro*.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 11 Ft Miller WASH 21 Nov.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 7 Hague WARR 15 Sep.

Downy Woodpecker: max 12 Normanskill Farm ALBA 11 Nov.

Hairy Woodpecker: max 6 Hunter GREE 22 Oct.

Northern Flicker: 25 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 25 Sep; 16 APBP 8 Sep.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 4 Queensbury WARR 10 Sep.

American Kestrel: max 7 Helderberg Hawk Watch ALBA 18 Sep.

Merlin: max 2 mult loc.

Peregrine Falcon: max 3 SNHP 3 Oct.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: last Hillsdale COLU 17 Sep.

Eastern Kingbird: last FR 13 Sep.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last Petersburg COLU 15 Sep.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: max 8 Drowned Lands Swamp Cons Area RENS 1 Sep; last APBP 8 Oct.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last Queensbury WARR 27 Sep.

Alder Flycatcher: last Bowerman's Bog FULT 25 Sep, late.

Willow Flycatcher: Jefferson SCHO 3 Sep; Ft Ann WASH 14 Sep, only reports.

Least Flycatcher: max 4 Charleston MONT 7 Sep; last Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 7 Oct.

Eastern Phoebe: max 21 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 25 Sep.

Northern Shrike: arr Putnam WASH 14 Nov.

Yellow-throated Vireo: last Schaghticoke RENS 26 Sep.

Blue-headed Vireo: last Ft Ann WASH 30 Oct.

Philadelphia Vireo: last Henry Hudson P ALBA 14 Oct.

Warbling Vireo: last Poestenkill RENS 3 Oct.

Red-eyed Vireo: last WMP 7 Nov, late.

Blue Jay: max 166 Champlain Canal WASH 23 Sep, migrants.

American Crow: max 1554 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 25 Oct.

Fish Crow: max 60 Kinderhook COLU 25 Sep.

Common Raven: max 8 Indian Head Wilderness Area GREE 20 Sep.
Horned Lark: max 110 Germantown COLU 17 Nov.
Tree Swallow: max 150 Nassau L RENS 6 Sep; last Ft Miller WASH 29 Oct.
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: max 30 Stockport COLU 15 Sep; last 4 SNHP 3 Oct.
Bank Swallow: Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 1 Sep, only report.
Barn Swallow: max 12 Athens GREE 4 Sep; OCA 9-10 Nov, late.
Black-capped Chickadee: max 64 Kinderhook Creek Pres RENS 18 Oct.
BOREAL CHICKADEE (R8): Amy's P WARR 22 Nov (GC), *intro*.
Tufted Titmouse: max 24 Boice Fam P SARA 28 Nov.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 58 Kinderhook Creek Pres RENS 18 Oct; at least 181 reports of 10+.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 17 SNHP 27 Nov.
Brown Creeper: max 8 Hudson Pointe NP WARR 10 Nov.
House Wren: last Glenville SCHE 29 Oct.
Winter Wren: max 7 APBP 9 Oct.
Marsh Wren: max 9 Clemens Marsh WASH 12 Sep; last VFNHP 24 Oct.
Carolina Wren: max 12 Normanskill Farm ALBA 14 Nov.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 3 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 5 Sep; last Peebles I SP ALBA 1 Oct.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 47 New Lebanon COLU 9 Oct.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 38 APBP 9 Oct.
Eastern Bluebird: max 60 OCA 6 Nov.
Veery: max 9 Corkscrew Rail Trail RENS 5 Sep; last Saratoga Spa SP SARA 25 Sep.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: Brant Lake WARR 26 Sep; Siegel-Kline Kill Cons Area COLU 30 Sep.
Swainson's Thrush: 65 Green Acres Farm COLU 26 Sep, *NFC*; last Summit SCHO 23 Oct.
Hermit Thrush: max 14 APBP 14 Oct.
Wood Thrush: last Siegel-Kline Kill Cons Area 17 Oct.
American Robin: max 680 OCA 11 Nov.
Gray Catbird: max 42 Corkscrew Rail Trail COLU 15 Sep.
Brown Thrasher: max 4 FR 17 Sep; last Catskill GREE 25 Oct.
SAGE THRASHER: OCA 4-18 Nov (BS), *intro*.

Northern Mockingbird: max 7 Rensselaer Tech Park RENS 5 Oct.
Bohemian Waxwing: 33 Putnam WASH 23 Nov; 3 Hague Town Beach WARR 10 Nov.
Cedar Waxwing: max 214 OCA 6 Nov.
House Sparrow: max 72 Corning Riverfront P ALBA 20 Sep.
American Pipit: max 100 Coeymans ALBA 9 Oct.
Evening Grosbeak: max 97 Summit SCHO 28 Nov; arr mult loc 22 Oct.
Pine Grosbeak: max 25 Queensbury WARR 29 Nov; arr Hague Town Beach WARR 11 Nov.
House Finch: max 40 Putnam WASH 5 Oct.
Purple Finch: max 35 FR 17 Sep.
Common Redpoll: max 90 E Chatham COLU 19 Nov; arr mult loc 4 Nov.
Hoary Redpoll: 2 BMB 22 Nov.
Red Crossbill: max 24 SNHP 29 Nov.
White-winged Crossbill: max 25 Amy's P WARR 25 Nov; arr Archer Vly SARA 14 Nov.
Pine Siskin: max 325 Shaker Museum, Mt Lebanon COLU 12 Oct.
American Goldfinch: max 82 Ghent COLU 15 Oct.
Snow Bunting: max 55 Kingsbury WASH 20 Nov; arr mult loc 25 Oct.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: max 10 FR 17 Sep; last APBP 21 Nov.
American Tree Sparrow: arr Mosher Marsh Pres MONT 27 Oct; max 55 Kingsbury WASH 25 Nov.
Chipping Sparrow: max 58 New Lebanon COLU 16 Sep.
Clay-colored Sparrow: 2 Knickerbocker Rd, Schaghticoke RENS 23 Oct.
Field Sparrow: max 16 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 9 Oct.
Vesper Sparrow: max 4 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 22 Oct.
Savannah Sparrow: max 20 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 9 Oct.
Grasshopper Sparrow: Overmountain Cons Area COLU 6 Nov, late.
NELSON'S SPARROW (R8): 22 Oct Niskayuna SCHE, *intro*.
Fox Sparrow: arr Corkscrew Rail Trail RENS 9 Oct; max 6 Hudson Pointe NP WARR 10 Nov.
NELSON'S SPARROW (R8): Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail, Ferry Rd brdg SCHE 22-23 Oct (NL), *intro*.

Song Sparrow: max 75 Kinderhook COLU 12 Oct.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 9 Sep; max 10 Charlton SARA 26 Sep; last FR 24 Oct.

Swamp Sparrow: max 25 Hutton Sq Rd SL WASH 5 Oct.

White-throated Sparrow: max 240 Hand Hollow Cons Area COLU 9 Oct.

White-crowned Sparrow: arr Yankee Hill Lock MONT 21 Sep; max 24 SNHP 11 Oct.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 140 Ft Ann WASH 30 Oct.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (R8): Overmountain Cons Area COLU 21 Oct (MS), *intro*.

Bobolink: max 200 Schoharie Crossing SHS MONT 3 Sep; last Schaghticoke RENS 20 Sep.

Eastern Meadowlark: max 5 Perth FULT 26 Sep; last Florida MONT 23 Oct.

Baltimore Oriole: last Glenville SCHE 25 Sep; a few stragglers thereafter.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 5000 Stillwater Riverfront P SARA 24 Oct.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 700 New Baltimore GREE 8 Oct.

Rusty Blackbird: 42 BMB 15 Oct; 30 East Bay WMA WASH 21 Oct.

Common Grackle: max 11000 Stillwater Riverfront P SARA 24 Oct.

Ovenbird: max 7 Hague WARR 13 Sep; last Bolton Landing WARR 11 Oct.

Northern Waterthrush: last FR 19 Sep.

Blue-winged Warbler: last Cocksackie GREE 9 Sep.

"Brewster's" Warbler: Schaghticoke RENS 14 Sep.

Black-and-white Warbler: last APBP 22 Oct.

Tennessee Warbler: max 14 FR 4 Oct; last Champlain Canal Trail SARA 3 Nov, late.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Schaghticoke RENS 25 Sep; last FR 1 Nov.

Nashville Warbler: last Dresden WASH 24 Oct.

Mourning Warbler: last Overmountain Cons Area COLU 14 Oct.

Common Yellowthroat: max 23 Corkscrew Rail Trail RENS 5 Sep; last RamsHorn-Livingston Sanc GREE 8 Nov.

American Redstart: last New Lebanon COLU 1 Oct.

Cape May Warbler: last Saratoga Spa SP SARA 5 Oct.

Northern Parula: last FR 31 Oct, late.

Magnolia Warbler: last three loc 22 Oct.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last Clemons Marsh WASH 5 Oct.

Blackburnian Warbler: last L Taghkanic SP COLU 11 Oct.

Yellow Warbler: last Normanskill Farm ALBA 17 Oct, late.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: last WMP 7 Oct.

Blackpoll Warbler: last New Baltimore GREE 23 Oct.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: last Charlton SARA 17 Oct.

Palm Warbler: last 2 OCA 7 Nov.

Pine Warbler: last Voorheesville ALBA 10 Oct.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 70 Cobleskill Res SCHO 17 Oct.

Prairie Warbler: last Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 26 Sep.

Black-throated Green Warbler: last FR 1 Nov, late.

Canada Warbler: last FR 21 Sep.

Wilson's Warbler: last Schaghticoke RENS 7 Oct.

Scarlet Tanager: last VFNHP 8 Oct.

Northern Cardinal: max 23 FR 12 Nov.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: last Summit SCHO 1-10 Nov, late feeder bird.

Indigo Bunting: last Zim Smith Trail SARA 27 Oct, late.

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REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The fall season began with heavy rain on 1-2 September. That rain was followed by a dry period lasting until the very end of the month. On 29-30 September, heavy rain occurred again, breaking the temporary drought. There was a high of 85° F on 8 September and a

low of 31° on 21 September, 1.4° above average. Including the above noted storms, precipitation was below average with 3.32", 0.96" below normal. October was cooler, but it continued to be dry. There was a high of 77° on 10 October and a low of 23° on 31 October. There was an average of 3.38" of precipitation overall, 1.09" below normal. Higher elevations received up to two inches of snow on 31 October. November started out cold with up to two inches of snow, again in the higher elevations, on 2 November. It warmed quickly with record setting high temps by the end of the first week. That pattern of highs and lows continued through the month. There was a high of 78° on 9 November but another quick turnaround saw a low of 18° on 19 November. The average temp was 6° above normal. Precipitation was 3.07", 0.4" below average.

As is typical of the fall season, many great birds were found. This year, Region 9 certainly got its share.

There were few reports of interesting waterfowl for most of the period, but there was a nice showing the last week of November. Gail Benson and Tom Burke found a returning Greater White-fronted Goose at Bowman Avenue Pond in Westchester on 27 November. An exceptional report occurred on 24 November when Bruce Nott found an adult **Barnacle Goose** at the Camel Farm in Orange County. As birders assembled to see the bird, it became apparent there was a family group of five individuals, four immature hybrid birds (Barnacle x Cackling) following an adult Barnacle. Making the event even more interesting was the fact that this group had been reported several other times this fall—first in Massachusetts, later in Connecticut, and finally in Orange County. They continued through the end of the period. Cackling Geese also made a late showing with just a few reported in the Region. Two Tundra Swans were found at the Camel Farm on 30 November by Matt VanDyk.

New York State experienced a nice incursion of **Rufous Hummingbirds** this fall, with two of them occurring in our Region. On 20 November Bob Yunick banded an immature female Rufous at an undisclosed location in Putnam County. The bird had been present at a feeder since 10 October. On 25 October, Alayna Vreeland spotted an adult male Rufous Hummingbird coming to her feeder, which she had been maintaining just in case of such an occurrence. Several birders were able to see the bird, a particularly vibrant individual. Most of our Rufous Hummingbirds are immatures, but this adult male glowed in the sunlight!

As has become the norm, Sandhill Cranes were reported in the Orange County Black Dirt Region throughout the period. Migrating Sandhills in Westchester County were seen on several occasions in November as well.

Once again, the fall shorebird showing in the Region was poor for at least the third year in a row, with American Golden-Plover setting an all-time low; a few appeared late in the season. The only Iceland Gull was spotted at Kingston Point on 3 November by Nelson Wilbury.

The adult **Brown Booby** at the Ashokan Reservoir continued through 16 September, drawing birders from around the Region, and the long-staying American White Pelican continued through 3 October, making a trip to the Ashokan Reservoir even more productive. Indeed, on 2 September, while birders were enjoying these rarities, two Western Willets were found, making three Regional rarities present there that day.

On 9 November, Linda Scrima photographed two Cattle Egrets flying north over the platform at Wallkill River NWR. Almost certainly the same two birds were found at Croton Point Park on 12 November by Charlie Roberto. This time the birds remained throughout the day to the delight of many.

On 5 November Richard Ward found an immature Snowy Owl at Edith G. Read Nature Sanctuary in Westchester County. The bird was seen several times that day, but not

relocated afterward. A second Snowy Owl was seen at a restricted location in Westchester as well.

On 27 October Tom Warren found a **Tropical Kingbird** in Dobbs Ferry, Westchester County. The bird was quite vocal, its calls recorded by Julian Amsellem, ruling out other species of kingbirds. The bird continued the following day, attracting birders from all over New York for this first state record.

On 17 October, Cedric Martin photographed a **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** on the bike path at the Ashokan Reservoir. Word did not get out until late in the day. The next morning, several birders were present when the bird was relocated by Lance Verderame. The bird was seen off and on over the next two hours, when it suddenly disappeared and, despite considerable effort, was not seen again. This was a first record for Ulster County and for Region 9.

It was a good fall for winter finches, Pine Siskins, Red Crossbills, Evening Grosbeaks and Common Redpolls all coming on the scene early and in good numbers. Dickcissels were seen throughout the period.

CHESTNUT RIDGE HAWKWATCH TOTALS

Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
Black Vulture	6 Oct	10	14 Oct	41
Turkey Vulture	12 Sep	409	25 Oct	3423
Osprey	26 Aug	22	12 Sep	248
Golden Eagle	27 Oct	2	27 Oct	14
No. Harrier	5 Sep	12	23 Sep	138
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8 Sep	245	8 Oct	2123
Cooper's Hawk	1 Sep	54	9 Oct	473
No. Goshawk	0	0	0	0
Bald Eagle	28 Aug	10	19 Sep	233
Red-shouldered Hawk	19 Sep	98	4 Nov	802
Broad-winged Hawk	26 Aug	1159	18 Sep	3140
Red-tailed Hawk	5 Sep	22	3 Nov	207
Rough-legged Hawk	0	0	0	0
Am. Kestrel	26 Aug	35	23 Sep	368
Merlin	30 Aug	8	8 Oct	90
Peregrine Falcon	28 Aug	5	15 Oct	37
Unidentified				124
Total including unidentified:				11,461

HOOK MOUNTAIN HAWKWATCH TOTALS

Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
Black Vulture	4 Sep	41	31 Oct	201
Turkey Vulture	12 Sep	152	10 Oct	972
Osprey	22 Aug	30	9 Sep	302
Golden Eagle	17 Oct	2	3 Nov	8

No. Harrier	26 Aug	7	10 Oct	124
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1 Sep	140	9 Oct	1357
Cooper's Hawk	31 Aug	18	24 Oct	223
No. Goshawk	25 Oct	1	25 Oct	1
Bald Eagle	26 Aug	15	19 Sep	291
Red-shouldered Hawk	13 Sep	77	31 Oct	390
Broad-winged Hawk	26 Aug	2618	19 Sep	4590
Red-tailed Hawk	11 Sep	24	18 Nov	269
Rough-legged Hawk	0	0	0	0
Am. Kestrel	26 Aug	45	12 Sep	370
Merlin	31 Aug	6	12 Oct	66
Peregrine Falcon	11 Sep	3	11 Oct	27
Unidentified				16
Total including unidentified:				9207

MOUNT PETER HAWKWATCH TOTALS

Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
Black Vulture	15 Sep	23	14 Oct	109
Turkey Vulture	4 Sep	204	27 Oct	850
Osprey	30 Aug	21	18 Sep	121
Golden Eagle	17 Oct	1	17 Oct	1
No. Harrier	4 Sep	4	11 Oct	42
Sharp-shinned Hawk	30 Aug	70	9 Oct	1048
Cooper's Hawk	3 Sep	8	10 Oct	85
No. Goshawk	0	0	0	0
Bald Eagle	30 Aug	14	14 Sep	177
Red-shouldered Hawk	3 Sep	21	25 Oct	149
Broad-winged Hawk	30 Aug	1357	18 Sep	3864
Red-tailed Hawk	6 Oct	208	3 Nov	465
Rough-legged Hawk	0	0	0	0
Am. Kestrel	3 Sep	14	18 Sep	121
Merlin	6 Sep	3	14 Sep	20
Peregrine Falcon	16 Sep	2	18 Sep	13
Unidentified				30
Total including unidentified:				7095

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Apollo Plaza, SULL; **AR** – Ashokan Res, ULST; **BCF** – Blue Chip Farm, ULST; **BFAS** – Buttercup Farm Audubon Sanctuary, DUTC; **BMSP** – Bear Mt SP, ROCK; **BP** – Browns Pd, ORAN; **BSWMA** – Bashakill State WMA, SULL; **CFSP** – Clarence Fahnestock SP, PUTN; **CIOES** – Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, DUTC; **CMACS** – Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary, DUTC; **CPP** – Croton Pt P, WEST; **DHCLP** – D and H Canal Linear P, SULL; **DR** – Doodletown Rd, ROCK; **DRT** – Dutchess Rail Trail, DUTC; **EGR** – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, WEST; **EMLH** – Esopus Meadows Light House, ULST; **FPNC** – Forsythe P and Nature Center, ULST; **GL** – Glenmere L, ORAN; **GMP** – Glasco Mini P, ULST; **GV** – Great Vly WMA, ULST; **HS** – Harcourt Sanctuary, ULST; **HVRT** – Harlem Valley Rail Trail, DUTC; **HWCV** – Hillside Woods and Children's Village, WEST; **II** – Iona I, ROCK; **KL** – Kiamesha L, SULL; **KP** – Kingston Pt, ULST; **LGC** – Laurel Grove Cemetery, ORAN; **LM** – Liberty Marsh, ORAN; **LNP** – Lenoir Nature Pres, WEST; **LR** – Larchmont Res, WEST; **MC** – Marshlands Conservancy, WEST; **MF** – Muscoot Farm, WEST; **MP** – Morningside P, SULL; **MPHW** – Mount Peter Hawk Watch, ORAN; **MRCC** – Mariondale Retreat and Conference Center, WEST; **NCR** – New Croton Res, WEST; **NR** – Neversink Res, SULL; **NW** – Newburgh Waterfront, ORAN; **OCBDR** – Orange County Black Dirt Region, ORAN; **OINP** – Oscawana I Nature Pres, WEST; **OMRLMSP** – Ogden Mills and Ruth Livingston Mills SP, DUTC; **PHP** – Peach Hill P, DUTC; **PITN** – Pine I Turf Nursery, ORAN; **PP** – Piermont Pier, ROCK; **RL** – Rhinecliff Landing, DUTC; **RLSP** – Rockland L SP, ROCK; **RNC** – Rye Nature Center, WEST; **RR** – Rondout Res, SULL; **RSP** – Rockefeller SP, WEST; **SFSP** – Sterling Forest SP, ORAN; **SGNWR** – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR, ULST; **SHSR** – Six and a Half Station Road, ORAN; **SS** – Sleightsburg

Spit, ULST; **SSF** – Stewart State Forest, ORAN; **TBWMA** – Tivoli Bays WMA, DUTC; **THMUA** – Taconic-Hereford Multiple Use Area, DUTC; **WL** – Wickham L, ORAN; **WFPF** – West Point Foundry Pres, PUTN; **WRNWR** – Wallkill R NWR, ORAN.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 4 OCBDR 29 Oct (MZ); max 17 OCBDR 30 Nov (KMi, BN, JH).

Greater White-fronted Goose: Bowman Ave Pd WEST 27-30 Nov (GB, TB, TW, SM, mob).

Brant: 40 RSP 5 Oct (EC); 49 Cornwall Bay ORAN 8 Oct (BN); 20 Hudson Highlands SP PUTN 8 Oct (DA); max 11 EGR 9-10 Oct (GB, TB, AS, mob); 140 Swan L SULL 25 Oct (JH).

BARNACLE GOOSE (R9): Camel Farm ORAN 24-30 Nov (BN, LS, MZ, mob), *intro*.

Cackling Goose: 2 Abel's Pd DUTC 17 Oct (DvZ); max 2 Camel Farm 25-30 Nov (LS, MC, CC, mob); HVRT 25 Nov (MC, CC, LCh); Rudd Pd DUTC 28 Nov (CC).

BARNACLE GOOSE x Cackling Goose: 4 Camel Farm ORAN 24-30 Nov, imms with ad Barnacle Goose; *intro*.

Tundra Swan: 2 Camel Farm 30 Nov (MZ, LS, KMi, BN, JH).

Blue-winged Teal: max 7 GV 1-4 Sep (PS, FM); max 16 EMLH 1-2 Sep (DW, NS); MP 2-10 Sep (JH); 5 Kensico Res WEST 4 Sep (KS).

Green-winged Teal: max 18 GV 1-3 Sep (PS); 2 EMLH 1-2 Sep (DW, NS); 4 Beaver Pd ORAN 1 Sep (BN); max 3 Barrett Pd PUTN 2-3 Sep (NS, KB, CR).

Northern Pintail: 5 GV 16 Oct (PS); 14 KL 26 Oct (JH); max 14 BSWMA 26 Oct – 19 Nov (JH, SB); 7 WL 26 Oct (KA).

Canvasback: Abel's Pd 16-23 Oct (DK, BM, SJ, mob); max 65 MRCC 4-10 Nov (TW, JA, NZ, mob); Orange L ORAN 12 Nov (BN); 65 CPP 22 Nov (LT, KL); max 75 MRCC 4-30 Nov (TW, BS, JA, mob).

Redhead: max 5 Sylvan L DUTC 28 Oct- 3 Nov (CP, JD, KB, mob); MRCC 7 Nov (JA, TW); 3 MRCC 28 Nov (JAitchison).

Ring-necked Duck: 2 Sylvan L 22 Sep (CP); 3 CPP 4 Oct (LT); max 18 WL 11 Oct – 3 Nov (KA, AV, DB); max 138 Thompson P Pres DUTC 19 Oct – 11 Nov (CV, KF, CF, mob); max 31 BSWMA 21 Oct-30 Nov (JH, KMi, SB); 25 Orange L 26 Oct (BN, GB, TB); max 25 MRCC 4-11 Nov (TW, JA, CR, KMcG).

Surf Scoter: Cooper L ULST 11 Oct (FM, DF); EGR 15 Oct (GB, TB); 3 NR 25 Oct (PD, JH); 3 Orange L 25 Oct (BN, KMi, KMcD); AR 31 Oct (WT, DW); 2 MRCC 9 -12 Nov

(AS, CR, KB, mob); KL 13 Nov (JH, KMi, SB).

White-winged Scoter: 4 AR 9 Oct (SM); max 12 Cornwall Bay ORAN 22 Oct (DB, BN, CP); Lake Carmel PUTN 22 Oct (MM, SC, AM, NS); max 10 NR 25-26 Oct (JH, KMi, PD); 16 Rondout Res ULST 26 Oct (JH); max 4 White P MUA PUTN 31 Oct – 2 Nov (SC, MM, KB, mob); AR 6 Nov (RM, JC); 8 Rye Town P WEST 12 Nov (KB); EMLH 21 Nov (JY).

Black Scoter: 20 Cornwall Bay 22 Oct (BN); CPP 24 Oct (DC, NS); max 15 Round L ORAN 26 Oct (BN, KMi, KMcD); AR 30 Oct (RM); MRCC 9-11 Nov (KL, SK, LT, mob); 6 Charles Rider P ULST 20 Nov (WT).

Long-tailed Duck: RR ULST 26 Oct (JH); 9 Hyde P Train St DUTC 18 Nov (DC); WL 22 Nov (KA, KMi, MZ); max 4 EGR 24-30 Nov (KMcG, GB, KB, SR).

Red-breasted Merganser: 3 Dennings Pt SP DUTC 9 Oct (SI); Orange L 31 Oct (BN); Sylvan L 31 Oct (CP); CPP 28 Nov (MGr).

Ruddy Duck: 2 PP 5 Sep (CW); 5 KL 2 Oct (JH); GV 2-4 Oct (PS); max 11 Sylvan L 2-4 Oct (CP); max 16 Swan L 29 Oct -27 Nov (JH).

Horned Grebe: max 10 AR 9-25 Oct (SM, DW, JM, mob); 8 AR 9 Oct (SM); KL 13 Nov (SB, KMi, PD); CPP 15 Nov (NZ); Sylvan L 17 Oct (CP, BM, DvZ); PP 22 Nov (ME).

Red-necked Grebe: Orange L 8 Oct (BN, KMi, YH); AR 30 Oct – 6 Nov (RM, JCli, PM); Rye Playland WEST 29 Nov (JWallace).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: BSWMA 16 Sep (JH); max 2 OMRLMSP 16-17 Sep (JClo, DC); CPP 13-22 Nov (LT, SK, MBo, mob).

Black-billed Cuckoo: Hastings-on-Hudson WEST 9 Sep (KR); Pruyn Sactuary WEST 20 Sep (MGol); Hartwood SULL 21 Sep (VB).

Common Nighthawk: 300 Stone Ridge 2 Sep (AG); 102 BSWMA 3 Sep (PD, KMi); 11 New Platz 24 Sep ULST (DW); 11 WRNWR 25 Sep (LV); 2 MC 17 Oct (GB, TB).

Chimney Swift: 10 Maple Ridge ULST 3 Oct (AM); 2 PHP 8 Oct (KB); 10 Chestnut Ridge Hawkwatch WEST 10 Oct (RA); 19 MC 3 Oct (GB, TB).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Chestnut Ridge Hawkwatch 9 Oct (RA).

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: PUTN 10 Oct – 20 Nov (RY); Greenwood L ORAN 25-30 Oct (AV, LV, LS, KMcd, mob), *intro*.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Clapper Rail: max 7 MC 2 Sep -10 Nov (GB, TB, NS, mob).

Virginia Rail: BSWMA 7-29 Sep (NS, GB, TB, SB, mob); Orange Heritage Trail ORAN 10 Oct (SC, MM, KB); Yorktown Bike Path Wetlands WEST 3-28 Sep (SR, PC, SK); Millbrook School Rd DUTC 20-22 Sep (DK); II 13 Nov (ME).

Sora: Muscoot Res WEST 25 Oct (JA).

Common Gallinule: max 5 WRNWR 3-22 Sep (TW, MRy, SC, mob); BSWMA 24 Sep (SB); Muscoot Res 24 Oct (SR, NS, SC, mob), late.

American Coot: EMLH 2 Oct (DF, JSu); 3 SHSR 6 Oct (KA); Sylvan L 10 Oct (DvZ, BM, CP, mob); max 36 NCR 20-21 Oct (MM, KL); 27 BSWMA 21-30 Oct (JH, SB, KMi, PD); 95 NCR 12 Nov (LO).

Sandhill Crane: max 6 OCBDR 2 Sep-30 Nov (KMi, SC, JM, mob); 2 RSP 18 Sep (FG); 3 RLSP 27 Oct (AW); 9 CPP 20 Nov (JCI); 4 CPP 22 Nov (RDo).

American Oystercatcher: MC 3 Sep (VH); 5 Five Islands P WEST 6-17 Sept (VH, BN).

Black-bellied Plover: WRNWR 3 Sep (TW); MC 10 Sep (GB, TB); max 7 OCBDR 29 Oct-1 Nov (MZ, KMi, FP, mob); CPP 1 Nov (AS, DvZ, VL, LC); max 4 MC 10 Sep-20 Nov (GB, EC, KMCG, mob).

American Golden-Plover: Missionlands Rd ORAN 12 Sep (JB, KMi, KMcd, mob); AR 23 Sep (RM); max 2 AR 14-23 Oct (PS, FM); max 3 PP 23-26 Oct (CW, JT); max 4 OCBDR 30-31 Oct (BN, MZ, KMi); AR 1 Nov (JCLI).

Semipalmated Plover: 5 Titicus Res WEST 1 Sep (SC); max 3 PP 2-20 Sep (CW, LP, CC, mob); max 5 MC 2-24 Sep (GB, TB); 13 Sep Harbor Square P WEST (LT); Swan L SULL 13 Oct (JH, SB).

Sanderling: max 3 New Rochelle WEST (KC); max 5 PP 6, 8 Sep (LP); Dobbs Ferry Landing WEST 7 Sep (TW); 6 AR 30 Oct (PS, RM).

Ruddy Turnstone: PP 5 Sep (CW); 5 Dobbs Ferry Landing 7 Sep (TW); EMLH 9 Sep (JY); LNP 8 Nov (MBo).

Upland Sandpiper: CPP 10 Sep (GB, NG, SC).

Stilt Sandpiper: Camel Farm 6-7 Sep (MZ, BN, KA); Swan L 13-15 Oct (JH, SB, PD).

Dunlin: 5 BSWMA 20 Sep (JH); WRNWR 10 Oct (SC, MM, KB); MC 10 Oct (SR, LT); 6 BSWMA 27-30 Oct (JH); 3 Rt 17K Pd ORAN 27 Oct (KMcd); max 15 OCBDR 29-31 Oct (MZ, KMi, FP, mob); max 4 MC 10 Oct – 20 Nov (SR, LT, GB, mob).

Purple Sandpiper: 3 New Rochelle 31 Oct (MBo, JL); max 5 EGR 15-26 Nov (JW, KMCG, GB); max 5 Rye Town P 25-27 Nov (KB, SR, PC).

Baird's Sandpiper: MP 1 Sep (JH).

Least Sandpiper: 2 MC 1 Oct (GB, TB), late.

White-rumped Sandpiper: 2 Beaver Pd (MZ, BT, LS, KMi).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: CPP 9-10 Sep (RL, AS, SK, mob); 2 Skinner Ln ORAN 13 Sep (MZ, KMi, GB, TB, mob).

Pectoral Sandpiper: MP 2 Sep (JH); OCBDR 2 Sep (BN); 12 AR 2 Sep (PS, AM); max 4 Camel Farm 5-12 Sep (SC, BN, MZ, mob); MP 8 Sep (JH); max 2 Barrett Pd PUTN 2 Sep (CR, KB, YH, mob); 4 MP 10 Sep (JH); 5 Swan L 13 Oct (JH, SB); max 7 OCBDR 29 Sep-1 Nov (MZ, BN, KMi, mob); Orange L 9-13 Nov (BN).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 63 AP 2 Sep (KMi, JH); 37 MC 9 Sep (GB, TB); max 2 MC 10-13 Oct (GB, SR, LT).

Western Sandpiper: MC 9-10 Sep (GB, TB).

Short-billed Dowitcher: GV 8-13 Sep (PS, RM, JP, WT).

Willet: 2 AR 2 Sep (SK, RM, WT, PS).

Parasitic Jaeger: EGR 27 Sep (GB, TB).

Bonaparte's Gull: 2 Orange L 12 Oct (BN); MP 16 Oct (JH); PP 21 Oct (CW); Sylvan L 28 Oct (MK); 3 Swan L 1 Nov (JH); 15 Wickham Town P ORAN 12 Nov (LS); 4 Lake Carmel PUTN 12 Nov (AM); 7 KP 12 Nov (DW).

Laughing Gull: max 130 MC 1-16 Sep (GB, TB, MT, mob); NWF 7 Sep (BN, JCa); 4 CPP 8 Sep (LT); 55 EGR 27 Sep (GB, TB); 3 EGR 17 Nov (GB, TB); EGR 27 Nov (TB, GB).

Iceland Gull: KP 3 Nov (NW).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: AR 13-16 Nov (PS, WT, RM).

Caspian Tern: max 7 AR 6-9 Sep (DS, ES, KVD, mob); PP 28 Sep, 1 Oct (SM, ME); 2 Meadow and Rowley's Bridge Trail WEST 28 Sep (TW, JA); 6 Plum Pt ORAN 2 Oct (BN, KA, KMi).

Common Tern: max 20 MC 1-16 Sep (JSe, GB, EM); EGR 27 Sep (GB, TB).

Forster's Tern: max 18 EGR 27-28 Sep (GB, TB).

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: Kensico Res WEST 2, 14 Oct (KS); AR 18 Oct – 16 Nov (DvZ, AP, WT); Lake Tappan ROCK 17 Oct (ME); TBWMA 5 Nov (DC); MRCC 9-17 Nov (AS, KB, CR, mob); KL 13 Nov (JH, SB, KMi, PD); max 12 EGR 11-28 Nov (GB, MT, KMcG, mob).

Common Loon: max 6 AR 1-16 Sep (DO, MZ, JCLi, mob); Minnewaska Trail ULST 10 Sep (CK); 5 NR 2 Oct (JH), widespread reports.

BROWN BOOBY: AR 1-16 Sep (PS, WT, FM, mob), *intro*.

Great Cormorant: EGR 1-2 Oct (GB, TB); 2 EGR 11 Oct (GB, TB); Lake Carmel 27 Oct -3 Nov (NS, AM, SC, MM).

American White Pelican: AR 1 Sep- 3 Oct (DT, SK, SR, mob), *intro*.

American Bittern: Maple Ridge ULST 1 Sep (AM); Fly Pd DUTC 3 Sep (CV).

Least Bittern: 3 SHSR 2 Sep (DH); Deans Bridge North Salem WEST 10 Sep (BN).

Great Egret: max 18 MC 1-16 Sep (GB, TB); max 18 Esopus Meadows Pres ULST 6-16 Sep (BS, DT, FM, mob), lower than usual numbers, but widespread.

Snowy Egret: max 9 MC 2 Sep (GB, TB); 2 WRNWR 3 Sep (TW); EGR 6-9 Nov (NG, GB, TB, mob); MC 6 Nov (NG); EGR 6-12 Nov (GB, TB).

Little Blue Heron: Twin Lakes P WEST 4 Sep (SO); EMLH 7 Sep (FW); MC 6 Nov (NG).

Tricolored Heron: 10 Sep Mohegan L WEST (LT).

Cattle Egret: 2 WRNWR 9 Nov (LS); 2 CPP 12 November (CR, LT, SK, mob), *intro*.

Black-crowned Night-heron: WRNWR 1 Sep (KA); max 2 Harbor Square P WEST 13-18 Sep (LT); PP 8 Sep (SM); max 9 EGR 10-27 Sep (GB, TB, JCh, CM); max 12 MC 2-15 Sep (GB, NS, VH).

Yellow-crowned Night-heron: CPP 4-5 Sep (JP, RL); 6 Five Islands P WEST 6 Sep (VH); Hommocks Conservation Area WEST 7, 16 Sep (AJ).

Osprey: White Pd MUA 31 Oct (SC, MM); Madam Brett P DUTC 1-3 Nov (HM); EGR 1 Nov (GL, KMcG); EGR 10 Nov (GB, TB); CPP 16, 20 Nov (TW, MGr). See also hawkwatch charts above.

Golden Eagle: I 84 Overlook ORAN 3 Nov (AA); HVRT 24-25 Nov (DK, MC, CC, LC), See also hawkwatch charts above.

Northern Goshawk: LNP 15 Nov (MB); See also hawkwatch charts above.

Bald Eagle to Red-tailed Hawk: See hawkwatch charts above.

Rough-legged Hawk: BMSP 10 Nov (CW); Yorktown Heights WEST 14 Nov (JA); OCBDR 16-27 Nov (KMi, MZ, LS); I 84 Overlook 21 Nov (AA).

American Kestrel and Merlin: See hawkwatch charts above.

Peregrine Falcon: Widespread reports. See hawkwatch charts above.

Snowy Owl: EGR 5 Nov (RW, JCh, GB, SC); Hillview Res 25 Nov (SC), *intro*.

Short-eared Owl: Chestnut Ridge Hawkwatch 8 Oct (RA); max 10 SGNWR 10-11 Oct (RStob, PD, mob); MC 17 Oct (GB, TB).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: 12-13 Sep Barryville SULL (MS); Sloan Gorge ULST 7, 20 Nov (PS); Cooper's L Woodstock ULST 26 Nov (PS).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Lasdon P and Arboretum WEST 3 Sep (CE), now breeding and occurring regularly in Westchester.

Red-headed Woodpecker: MC 14 Sep (GB, TB); Dobbs Ferry WEST 11 Oct (JW); Pine St PUTN 1 Nov (MRi).

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

TROPICAL KINGBIRD: Dobbs Ferry WEST 27-28 Oct (TW, JA, LV, mob), *intro*.

Eastern Kingbird: HNA Palisades Conference Center ROCK 29 Sep (MT), late.

FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER: AR 17-18 Oct (CM, LV, JH, PS, mob), *intro*.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Kingston 13 Sep (MDe); Yorktown Bike Path Wetlands WEST 22 Sep (KL); Kendridge Farm ORAN 4 Oct (AL); Stoney Kill Farm EEC DUTC 12-26 Sep (CK).

Northern Shrike: Awosting L ULST 28 Nov (DN).

Blue Headed Vireo: Myers Pres WEST 21 Nov (CR).

Philadelphia Vireo: max 2 BSWMA 6-15 Sep (PD, SB, KMi, mob); WRNWR 3-9 Sep (KA, LS, LV); RSP 3-9 Sep (SK, SR, AS, mob); MC 14, 21 Sep (TBu, GBen); EMLH 16 Sep (JY, FM, DF); MC 12 Oct (GBen, TBi); 2 Supreme Ct Saugerties ULST 20 Sep (RM).

Warbling Vireo: CFSP 20 Sep (SR, SC), many late reports in Sep.

Tree Swallow: 65 BSWMA 15 Sep (JH, SB); 3 Weston Rd ULST 10 Oct (GF); max 12

BSWMA 3-10 Oct (SB, JH, PD, mob); max 100 Orange L 3-9 Oct (BN).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Mahopac PUTN 2 Sep (NS), first of many ongoing reports.

Sedge Wren: Kukuk Ln ULST 3 Oct (FM, DF).

Marsh Wren: BSWMA 4 Oct (JH, SB); max 3 GV 1 Sep -5 Oct (PS, RM); max 2 MC 1 Sep - 1 Oct (GB, NS, FG).

Veery: MC 21 Oct (SC), late.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Upper Brook Rd ORAN 7-15 Sep (KA, BN); Dobbs Ferry 24 Sep (JA); 2 North Highland P PUTN 29 Sep (CR).

Swainson's Thrush: max 8 BSWMA 7-15 Sep (JH, SB, KM, mob), widespread.

Wood Thrush: HWCV 10 Oct (JA); Hastings-on-Hudson 10 Oct (JW); Garrison PUTN 11 Nov (RB).

American Pipit: max 12 GV 12 Sep- 10 Oct (PS, RM); max 36 Stoney Kill Farm EEC 19 Sep-17 Oct (DvZ, CP, BM, mob); max 17 BSWMA 23 Sep-21 Oct (JH, SB, KM, mob); max 45 CPP 18-25 Sep (LT, GB, SM, mob); 14 SGNWR 20 Oct (RH).

Evening Grosbeak: 3 Campbell Hall ORAN 24 Oct (JF); 6 Roscoe SULL 28 Oct (MGor); 10 Lake Osiris Rd ORAN 31 Oct (BF); 11 Pine Plains DUTC 31 Oct (DvZ, AS); 11 BSWMA 1 Nov (SB); 6 Chestnut Ridge Hawkwatch 1 Nov (RA).

Purple Finch: 10 BFAS 15 Sep (JC, MK); max 5 PHP 16-23 Sep (KV, SR, DvZ); max 8 Stoney Kill Farm EEC 12 Sep-5 Oct (DC, BM, AM); 11 BSWMA 5 Oct (JH); 5 Prunyn Sanctuary 5 Oct (AS), widespread.

Common Redpoll: 20 Stone Ridge 7 Nov (DN); max 14 Stone House ULST 8-30 Nov (ER, PM); 20 Woodard Rd SULL 9 Nov (JH); Prunyn Sanctuary 14, 21 Nov (SC); 50 Resnick Rd SULL 21 Nov (NH); 4 RLSP 24 Nov (ME); max 200 Gabel Rd SULL 27 Nov (JH), *intro*.

Red Crossbill: max 7 Merriwald SULL 7 Sep - 29 Nov (NH, JH); max 3 Rt 42 Forestburgh SULL 10 Oct (NH, PD, SB); Hartwood 20 Oct (VB); Cold Spring DUTC 3 Nov (SC, MM); 3 Boxbaum Rd ORAN 8 Nov (RSton); 10 EMLH 21 Nov (JY, DvZ, RD, mob); 4 Big Hill ROCK 15 Nov (DP); 6 Reservoir #3 ORAN 21 Nov (MZ); Saugerties ULST 22 Nov (PS); Res #3 28 Nov ORAN (MZ). Widespread reports.

White-winged Crossbill: Woodstock ULST 14 Nov (PS).

Pine Siskin: Liberty SULL 3 Sep (PLB); Teatown Reservation WEST 7 Sep (SR, SK, KL); 2 Forestburgh SULL 27 Sep (NH); Catskill P ULST 30 Sep (PS); Mountain View Rd DUTC 30 Sep (KB); 60 Forestburgh 5 Oct (JH); max 120 BSWMA 8-9 Oct (JH, SB, LV).
Lapland Longspur: CPP 23-25 Sep (RL, SK, SR, mob); Davenport Farm ULST 23 Oct (PS); max 3 OCBDR 31 Oct (MZ, LS); 2 Long Rd SULL 31 Oct (JH); CPP 4 Nov (TW); Overlook P DUTC 4-5 Nov (CF, DC, DvZ, mob); Davenport Farm 21 Nov (PS); max 3 OCBDR 26-30 Nov (LS, BN, DT, mob).
Snow Bunting: max 2 Posquillo Creekside Rd ULST 10, 17 Oct (PS); max 7 BSWMA 1 Nov (JH, SB); 4 Smith Rd 2 Nov (JH); 9 Stone Ridge ULST 2 Nov (SW); max 10 OCBDR 31 Oct -10 Nov (LS, MZ, BN, FP), max 31 CPP 31 Oct - 13 Nov (NG, SK, GB, mob); 13 Davenport Farm 21 Nov (PS).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Vesper Sparrow: Goshen ORAN 25 Sep (BT); Hurley Mt Rd ULST 26 Sep (PS, RM); Stoney Kill Farm EEC 9-10 Oct (KB, DvZ, BM, mob); BSWMA 11, 15, 21 Oct (JH, SB); max 2 CPP 14 Oct (RL, KMcG, AS, mob).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Stony Kill Farm EEC 18-22 Sep (CC, DS, ES, mob); PITN 1 Oct (BN, LS); EGR 9-11 Oct (GB, TB).

Nelson's Sparrow: EGR 30 Sep (GB, TB); MC 1-19 Oct (GB, TB, PC, KMcG, mob).

Saltmarsh Sparrow: MC 7-19 Oct (PC, SR, LT, mob).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Ulster County Fairgrounds ULST 25 Sep (AP).

Lincoln's Sparrow: BSWMA 15 Sep (SB); CPP 15-26 Sep (LT, AS, PC, mob); max 7 WRNWR 24-26 Sep (LS); 3 CPP 4 Oct (AS, SW, CA); max 4 RSP 12 Sep-4 Oct (JA, RL, TW, mob); BSWMA 3 Nov (JH).

White-crowned Sparrow: LNP 19 Sep (JR); Stoney Kill Farm EEC 21-22 Sep (KB, DvZ, SR), many early reports.

Rusty Blackbird: CIOES 19 Sep (JA); max 70 BSWMA 10 Oct- 3 Nov (SB, KM, JH, mob); 5 Barrett Pd (SC, MM, KB); 21 Orange L 26 Oct (BN, GB, TB); max 80 BSWMA 1-7 Nov (SB, JH); 4 SGNWR 14 Nov (KMcD).

Worm-eating Warbler: Kendridge Farm 1-3 Sep (BN); Pinecliff Sanctuary WEST 4 Sep (MGol).

Blue-winged Warbler: BSWMA 11 Sep (LV); RSP 15 Sep (PC); HWCC 15 Sep (SC).

Tennessee Warbler: max 8 RSP 1-12 Sep (GB, AS, LT, mob); CPP 1-11 Sep (KB, AS, mob); CPP 1-8 Nov (SR, KB, LT, mob).
Orange-crowned Warbler: Forestburgh 16 Sep (NH); Dobbs Ferry Landing 25 Sep (JA); BSWMA 3 Oct (LV); CPP 31 Oct (TJ, GL); Stone Ridge ULST 7 Nov (DN).
Connecticut Warbler: WRNWR 8 Sep (LS); Posquiello Creekside Rd 16 Sep (PS); Ulster P ULST 19 Sep (DT); WRNWR 3-4 Oct (RSton, LV, LS); WPPF 5 Oct (SC, GB, TB, AV).
Mourning Warbler: max 2 WRNWR 2-25 Sep (KA, LS, LV, mob); RLSP 8 Sep (VH); Meadow and Rowley's Bridge Trail 28 Sep (JA); max 2 Stoney Kill Farm EEC 12-14 Sep (SR, KB, DvZ, DC); WPPF 6-9 Oct (OG, CR, AV, mob).
Hooded Warbler: Hook Mt ROCK 5 Sep (ME); BSWMA 8 Sep (JH); Wonder L SP PUTN 8 Sep (SC, MM); Kendridge Farm 12 Sep (BN); 2 DRT 27 Sep (SI, LK).
Cape May Warbler: max 3 Hook Mt (TB, KB, ME); 2 RSP 7 Sep (NS, VH).
Bay-breasted Warbler: BSWMA 13 Sep (SB); Muscote Farm WEST 4 Sep (KMCA); Esopus Bend Nature Pres ULST 12 Sep (DF).

Blackburnian Warbler: Lamont Campus ROCK 2 Oct (LP); Ludlow Woods DUTC 2 Oct (DK).
Yellow Warbler: KP 11 Oct (DF); Orange L 12 Oct (BN).
Magnolia Warbler: BSWMA 4 Nov (SB, DB).
Blackpoll Warbler: CPP 31 Oct – 6 Nov (LT, SC, MM); Hyde P DUTC 13 Nov (DC).
Pine Warbler: CPP 7 Nov (JA, TW); Hillview Res WEST 5 Nov (SC); MRCC 9 Nov (KMCG).
Black-throated Green Warbler: MC 4 Nov (GB, TB).
Wilson's Warbler: Stoney Kill Farm EEC 7 Sep (CK); WRNWR 11 Sep (LS); CSFP 12 Sep (AM); BSWMA 11 Oct (JH, JS); EGR 19-21 Oct (GB, TB).
Scarlet Tanager: Kukok Lane 5 Oct (BN); Haverstraw Bay ROCK 6 Oct (AW); WPPF 10 Oct (PC, JC).
Dickcissel: CPP 5 Sep (KB, LT, MU, RS); Kukok Ln 6 Sep (NW); Stoney Kill Farm EEC 16-18 Sep (CP, DvZ, DC, mob); Glynwood Farm PUTN 26 Sep (KB, SC); Hillview Res 2 Oct (SC); EGR 9-11 Oct (GB, TB, SR, mob); MC 11 Nov (SO); OMRLMSP 24-25 Nov (KF, CF, JClo).

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REGION 10—MARINE

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Precipitation totals were close to or often above their averages for the city and Long Island this season. Temperatures were seasonal in September but strayed above average as the season progressed, with the most pronounced variance in November. The only tropical storms passed through the Region in the summer.

	Central Park			Islip		
Temp	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Sep	68.8°	68.0°	+0.8°	67.0°	65.6°	+1.4°
Oct	57.9°	56.9°	+1.0°	56.8°	54.3°	+2.5°
Nov	52.9°	47.7°	+5.2°	49.4°	45.1°	+4.3°
Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Sep	3.94"	4.28"	-0.34"	3.87"	3.58"	+0.29"
Oct	5.05"	4.40"	0.65"	4.89"	3.78"	+1.10"
Nov	3.99"	4.02"	-0.03"	4.68"	3.67"	+1.01"

The COVID-19 pandemic that began early in the spring of 2020 continued to affect millions of people around the world, but in the Region cases dropped significantly over the summer. By the beginning of the period, many outdoor activities and limited indoor services had resumed, and the traffic looked to be close to its old vigor. Cases began increasing in October, mostly replacing the regular influenza, and continued an expected upward trend. At the end of the period, daily new cases in New York State were approaching the peak levels from April, but this time cases were being reported more or less evenly across the state instead of primarily downstate. The relatively good news was that local deaths were lagging and fewer hospitals were full. In contrast with the spring, birding coverage was strong in all counties.

Conditions around North America gave some early signals that this season could produce some unusual species or quantities in the Region. California saw its largest wildfire season in modern history by land burned, raging from spring through the fall, burning 4% of the entire state, and bringing visible ash to the Region in mid-September. An intense drought gripped the Southwest during this period. Entire flocks of insectivorous birds like swallows were found dead, fallen out of the sky, starved. Even some elevational migrants like Clark's Nutcracker were reported to move into the plains. Red-breasted Nuthatches flooded our Region in August, and Purple Finch followed shortly after. Winter finches began appearing ahead of schedule in September at known migration bottlenecks to our north like Tadoussac, Quebec. Even some of our traditionally more sedentary species showed signs of irruption in the Region, including chickadees south into the Region and Northern Cardinal north into Canada. Later in the season, a few rare alcids suggested potential movement of that group. Movement seemed to be the norm this season, but a few groups did not participate strongly, including shorebirds, northward dispersing waders, and southward dispersing northern forest owls.

The period begins just after peak shorebird migration, but there were few records of larger species like godwits and avocets, and all the sod farm shorebirds were once again in single-digit flocks. With the help of persistent advocates such as Andrew Baksh, the East Pond of Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge drained and evaporated a little better than last year and did have some flats for shorebirds. Peeps and yellowlegs seemed to take the most advantage of the flats while dowitchers were scarce. Although **Wilson's Phalarope** did appear on the pond, Red-necked Phalarope did not and was not reported in the Region this period. Jamaica Bay also produced a few non-shorebird highlights early in the season, such as one-day wonder **LeConte's Sparrow**, **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, and **Swainson's Hawk**. Another Swainson's Hawk was seen on Governors Island, along with a **Western Kingbird**. Another early fall surprise was a juvenile **Red-necked Grebe** in Gravesend Bay, Brooklyn.

The mornings with northwest wind that had been hard to catch in recent years seemed to return to a more normal level, and produced some wonderful flights along the coast. Several locations around coastal New York City, the barrier beaches of Long Island, and even the North Shore produced some great counts of migrants in morning flight, with hundreds of warblers on the right days in September. One species much more readily detected this way is **Connecticut Warbler**, and while this did occur this season it was less critical for detection, as the species was encountered repeatedly all around the Region! Individuals were spotted in no fewer than 40 locations across all seven counties, with a minority confiding and lingering for days. Other interesting volumes were a count of 220 Black-capped Chickadees migrating past Battery Harris at Fort Tilden and 49 Northern Cardinals migrating along at Robert Moses. The cardinals were following the route of southbound migrants, so it is not clear if these birds may have contributed to the Canada

influx. Raptors also showed well this season, with American Kestrel numbers on the upswing. The Fire Island Hawk watch tallied 1,155 kestrels, their highest since 2016, and before that 2002. The second highest seasonal Osprey count was also recorded from that location.

October brought the rarest species, including another **LeConte's Sparrow** at Conference House Park, and one **Henslow's Sparrow** each in Central Park and at Breezy Point. Other highlights from the latter location were a small flyby group of **Harlequin Duck**, and a **Sandhill Crane** migrating high over New York Bay. Rare flycatchers began appearing in the last days of October, including the first of several **Ash-throated Flycatchers**. An *Empidonax* that appeared in Kissena Park, Queens, was suggestive of Pacific-slope or Cordilleran Flycatcher. It was cooperative and both a fecal sample and audio recording of the position call were obtained. Labs have still been delayed by the pandemic and no analysis has been completed yet, but the recorded calls are apparently diagnostic for **Pacific-slope Flycatcher**. In Suffolk, both **Long-tailed** and **Pomarine Jaegers** were seen from Robert Moses and a **Rufous Hummingbird** attending feeders at the Bayard Cutting Arboretum was banded there. The individual highlight of this month and surely the season as well was a **Painted Redstart** encountered at Floyd Bennet Field. This celebrated vagrant was part of a small but clear push of this species north and east, with several others recorded around the eastern half of North America. Last and possibly least was a male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** encountered in Flushing, Queens with severely and seemingly intentionally damaged flight feathers. They are not sought as a pet as their song resembles a buzzsaw, but this one might have been marketed falsely as its more talented South American counterpart, the Yellow-hooded Blackbird. Sadly, the bird avoided rescue and disappeared.

November began with a single **Golden Eagle** that delighted observers from Inwood Hill Park in northern Manhattan to southern Staten Island on the 3rd. Inwood Hill also proved to be a good vantage for surprises moving along the Hudson River, including a **Brown Booby** and **Black-legged Kittiwake**. Another **Brown Booby** was observed around Quogue in Suffolk. A **Western Tanager** was cooperative at Green-wood Cemetery for nearly two weeks. A few species often absent from our waters, like **Dovekie**, **Thick-billed Murre**, and Bonaparte's Gull were reported ahead of a winter push. Another irruptive species, **Cave Swallow**, appeared in multiple locations after a quick window of southwesterlies, but only on the 17th and 18th. But the month was dominated by an exceptional finch flight. **Pine Siskins** were truly abundant across the Region, with nearly continuous flocks of several hundred flowing along the coast on some mornings. Extraordinarily rare in the Region for years, **Evening Grosbeaks** were not common but were the most accessible they have been in well over a decade. As the period wrapped up, **Red Crossbill** and **Common Redpoll** numbers crescendoed as well. White-winged Crossbill, Pine Grosbeak, and Hoary Redpoll irrupted too, but did not make it to the Region.

319 species were reported in the Region this season, up from 303 last autumn.

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ABBREVIATIONS

APP – Alley Pd P, QUEE; **Bpt** – Breezy Pt, QUEE; **CHP** – Conference House P, RICH; **CP** – Central P, NEWY; **CR** – Cemetery of the Resurrection, RICH; **FBF** – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; **FIHW** – Fire Island Hawk Watch, Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **FKP** – Fresh Kills P, RICH; **FMCP** – Flushing Meadows-Corona P, QUEE; **FP** – Forest P, QUEE; **FT** – Fort Tilden, QUEE; **GwC** – Green-Wood Cemetery, KING; **HLSP** – Hempstead L SP, NASS; **HP** – Hook Pd, East Hampton, SUFF; **JBSP** – Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWR** – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; **KP** – Kissena P, QUEE; **MF** – Miller Field, RICH; **MP** – Montauk Pt SP, SUFF; **OP** – Orient Pt CP, SUFF; **PBP** – Pelham Bay P, BRON; **PL** – Point Lookout, NASS; **PlumbB** – Plumb Beach, KING; **PP** – Prospect P, KING; **RI** – Randall’s I, NEWY; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **Sag** – Sagaponack Pd, SUFF; **SPCP** – Smith Pt CP/Old In, SUFF; **SMSP** – Sunken Meadow SP, SUFF; **SPP** – Southards Pd P, Babylon, SUFF; **TRCP** – Terrell R CP, Center Moriches, SUFF; **VCP** – Van Cortlandt P, BRON; **WPP** – Wolfe’s Pd P, RICH.

FIRE ISLAND HAWKWATCH TOTALS

Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
Black Vulture				0
Turkey Vulture				0
Osprey	8/26	142	9/14, 9/18	685
Golden Eagle				0
No. Harrier	8/20	23	10/8	182
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9/12	25	10/17	166
Cooper’s Hawk	9/14	5	10/27	44
No. Goshawk	11/17	1	11/17	1
Bald Eagle	10/5	6	10/25	14
Red-shouldered Hawk	11/18	1	11/18	1
Broad-winged Hawk				0
Red-tailed Hawk	9/19	1		4
Rough-legged Hawk				0
Am. Kestrel	9/5	204	10/8	1,155
Merlin	9/5	153	9/18	1,099
Peregrine Falcon	9/13	28	10/8	187
Unidentified				9
Total including unidentified:				3,547

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Cackling Goose: Maratooka L, SUFF 16 Oct (JSep); MF 29 Oct – 29 Nov (ACi); RI 13-15 Nov (mob), Upper West Side, NEWY 3 Nov (RZ), migr; 2 Great Pd, SUFF 14 Nov (JSep); HP 14 Nov (JMi); Shorts Pd, SUFF 29 Nov (CGa, LGa, MGA).

Greater White-fronted Goose: WPP 3-8 Nov (mob); Northport, SUFF 11 Nov thru end of period (mob); HP 14-15 Nov (mob).

Mute Swan: max 130 JBWR (TH and KFe), down from fall R10 max 207 in in 2019.

Tundra Swan: aside from one individual at JBWR, all flocks near end of period: 10

Oregon Rd, SUFF 13 Nov (mob); 4 PBP 16 Nov (PHo); 11 FBF, 28 Nov (RPy); max 11 JBWR, 28 Nov (BBel); 11 RMSP, 28 Nov (mob); 22 SPCP, 28 Nov (PDom, APe, DC) 5 Battery P, NEWY 29 Nov (TO).

Eurasian Wigeon: JBWR 11 Sep thru end of period (mob); West L, SUFF 25 Oct – 11 Nov (mob); APP 8 Nov thru end of period (mob), unusual location at Oakland L; Centerport, SUFF 11 Nov thru end of period.

Canvasback: arr 11 Oct: max 12 Eastport L, 22 Nov (EiS); beside flocks slowly gathering at 3 traditional sites (Flushing, QUEE; Northport, SUFF; Eastport, SUFF), only one other report: m JBWR, 25 Nov thru end of period (mob).

Redhead: max 13 Baisley Pd, QUEE 19 Nov (CFi), continued decline, down from fall 2018 R10 max of 65 there.

King Eider: imm m BPt area, 7 Nov thru end of period (mob); f FBF, 11-12 Nov (mob).

Harlequin Duck: 3 BPt 24 Oct (DG); max 7 PL 14 Nov thru end of period (mob).

Barrow's Goldeneye: f Frank Melville Mem P, 27 Nov thru end of period (R. Roses, mob), unusual freshwater location.

Northern Bobwhite: several reports in SUFF from known reintroductions but some in historical areas; 1 HLSP 12 Nov (EB), only representative of Nassau reintroduction efforts.

Ring-necked Pheasant: few individuals from RICH, KING, and SUFF; max 5 Saltmarsh Marine Nature Center, KING, 29 Sep (AVB).

Red-necked Grebe: juv Calvert Vaux P, KING 7 Sep (N. Peyrafitte); Spring Ck P, QUEE 10-11 Nov (mob); PlumbB and Dead Horse Pt, KING, 15 Nov thru end of period (DG, mob); BPt 17 Nov (DG); 2 Lemon Ck Pier, RICH, 22 Nov (ACi); 2 Gravesend Bay, KING 28 Nov thru end of period.

EARED GREBE (R10): JBWR 31 Oct thru end of period (mob).

Common Nighthawk: max 184 Stone Bridge Nighthawk Watch, SUFF 5 Sep (JosL, *et al.*), season total of 2,242.

Chimney Swift: max 650 KP 16 Sep (CFi).

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD: Bayard Cutting Arboretum, SUFF, 30 Oct – 25 Nov (A. Raimondo, mob), banded by Anthony Hill of N. Am. Banding Council.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Sora: dep PBP 9 Nov (RAr, JMcM), late.

SANDHILL CRANE (R10): BPt 25 Oct (DG), flyover.

American Avocet: unlike the many last fall, only one: JBWR 29 Sep – 6 Oct (ABk, mob).

American Golden-Plover: no major flocks in Riv sod farms area for third year in a row: max 6 MF 29 Sep (RvE); RI 9-16 Oct (mob), first record for NEWY in eBird.

Hudsonian Godwit: 6 MB, 4 Sep SUFF (mob); 4 RMSP 17 Sep (ChC).

Marbled Godwit: OMNSA 9-11 Sep (MF, mob); max 2 RMSP 13-16 (MMb, ChC); JBWR 16 Sep (MCh).

Red Knot: max 97 Lido B, NASS 7 Sep (BF).

Baird's Sandpiper: Riv 1 Sep (AV); MB 6-10, 26 Sep RMSP (mob); 3-11 Sep (PSh, mob); JBWR 7, 18 Sep (mob); JBSP 11 Sep (SBI, MBb); RMSP; MP 12 Sep (UM).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: max 4 Oregon Rd, SUFF 1 Sep (JSep).

Short-billed Dowitcher: max 29 RMSP 13 Sep (MMb), low.

Long-billed Dowitcher: many, max 9 Amityville Ck, SUFF 15-17 Oct (MMb).

Wilson's Phalarope: Sag 5 Sep (NSt, ACo); JBWR 7, 12 Sep, 7-9 Oct (mob).

Red Phalarope: Stuyvescent Cove P, NEWY 12 Sep (mob), unusual loc.

POMARINE JAEGER (R10): RMSP 13 Nov (PJL, SSM), very rare from shore.

Parasitic Jaeger: away from South Shore locs: "pelagic" coordinates (40.953996, -73.423817), SUFF 12 Sep (BBo, BF, TS), rare in LI Sound; BPt 11 Nov (ABu), rare in NYC.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: RMSP 23 Oct (SSM), very rare from shore.

Dovekie: offshore near MP, SUFF 29 Nov (FD), early.

THICK-BILLED MURRE: RMSP 25 Nov (TS), early, briefly stranded.

Razorbill: arr SPCP, SUFF 4 Nov (MMb).

Black-legged Kittiwake: IHP 14 Nov (NSo, NOr), unusual loc; max 26 SPCP 29 Nov (MMb).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 225 Napeague, SUFF 28 Nov (AnW).

Little Gull: RMSP 14 Nov (JGI).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 53 RMSP 12 Oct (MMb).

Caspian Tern: max 5 BPt 5 Sep (SSi); RI 6 Sep (TH).

Black Tern: JBWR 2 Sep (DG); OP 2 Sep (JSep); BPt 11 Sep (PPau); TRCP 20-21 Oct (NSt, PDo); JBSP 10 Nov (KJK), late.

Royal Tern: max 225 TRCP 17 Oct (mob); dep WPP 26 Nov (ACi).

LOONS – PARAKEET

NORTHERN FULMAR (R10): pelagic coordinates (40.484444, -72.873889) 25 Sep (C. Witek).

Manx Shearwater: only two: RMSP 18 Oct (mob); pelagic coordinates (40.391, -72.352), SUFF 9 Nov (NSt).

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: dep pelagic coordinates (40.391, -72.352), SUFF 9 Nov (NSt).

BROWN BOOBY: IHP 22 Nov (NOr, NSo, M. Ross); East Quogue Marine P area, SUFF 29 Oct -1 Nov (mob).

Great Cormorant: max 35 PBP (mob).

Brown Pelican: none, to contrast last year.

American White Pelican: TRCP 17, 18 Oct (mob); JBWR 19 Oct – 1 Nov (mob).

American Bittern: besides migr at typical coastal locs: IHP 25 Sep (NOr, BBa, DK); Corona, QUEE 8 Oct (TH), flyover; PBP 13 Oct – 8 Nov (mob); RI 17 Oct (SiB, DZ), 4 Nov (CQ).

Least Bittern: max 2 JBWR 7 Sep (ABk).

Cattle Egret: SUFF County Farm & Education Ctr, SUFF 24-26 Oct (mob).

Black Vulture: many reports in BRON, NEWY, and RICH; singles elsewhere else besides traditional roost at Riv.

Osprey: season total 685 FIHW (mob), second Shighest after 836 in 2017.

GOLDEN EAGLE (R10): apparent single imm migr south: IHP, Riverside P, and Nelson A. Rockefeller Jr P, NEWY, and also CR and Tottenville, RICH 3 Nov (mob); Hillview Res, BRON 4 Nov (SCam), also imm.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: season total 166 FIHW (mob), low.

Northern Goshawk: RMSP 7 Nov (PJL, SSM); BPt 24 Nov (HL, MY); Ft Wadsworth, RICH 24 Nov (JRG).

Red-shouldered Hawk: max 28 CP 27 Oct (ABu), NEWY high count on eBird.

Broad-winged Hawk: only NYC: max 60 IHP 18 Sep (LL).

SWAINSON'S HAWK: JBWR 19 Sep (DCh); Gov's I, NEWY 26 Sep (BCa).

Rough-legged Hawk: Sag 9 Oct (ACo).

Snowy Owl: modest flight beginning on Suffolk beaches, arr 7 Nov; also two unusual reports: Massapequa, NASS 11 Nov (via RoT), injured bird rescued and photographed in suburban area; Hillview Reservoir, BRON 25 Nov (SCa);

Barred Owl: CP 9 Oct thru end of period (mob); IHP 19 Nov thru end of period (mob).

Long-eared Owl: JBSP 14 Nov (PMar); GwC 29 Nov (KTo).

Short-eared Owl: sev in habitat in NASS, SUFF, but also migr: Southard's Pd P, SUFF 25 Oct (PMo); 2 PlumbB 27 Oct (JMal); FBF 30 Oct (DHR, RoM); Shirley Chisholm SP, KING 7 Nov (DG).

Northern Flicker: max 1,568 RMSP 3 Oct (MMb).

PILEATED WOODPECKER (R10): sev, RICH only.

American Kestrel: max 239 FT 8 Oct (SWa) season total of 1,155 FIWH (mob); *intro*.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

PACIFIC-SLOPE FLYCATCHER: KP 31 Oct – 7 Nov (M. Gottlieb, mob), diagnostic calls recorded and fecal specimen obtained but yet to be analyzed.

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: sev, Ft Washington P, NEWY 9 Nov (anon), eBirded on behalf of observer and prob second sighting later that week; GwC 14-29 Nov (mob); Children's Museum, KING 28 Nov (Twitter: @dinodood15); Lido Passive Pres, NASS (CBr, DPa); CHP 29-30 Nov (mob); FP 28-29 Nov (mob);

Western Kingbird: Govs I, NEWY 26 Sep – 5 Oct (mob); RMSP 2-3 Oct (mob); FT 17 Oct (GL, KE); Mt Loretto Unique Area, RICH 28 Nov (mob).

kingbird sp.: BPt 17 Nov (DG), yellow-bellied sp.

Blue Jay: ~ 500 migr past Hallock SP Pres, SUFF 26 Sep (MLL).

Common Raven: reports across all areas of all counties; max 27 Flax Pd, SUFF (NSt), single group.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 220 BPt 7 Nov (CF, SA, MN), *intro*.

CAVE SWALLOW: FT 17-18 Nov (BF, mob); PlumbB 17 Nov (JMal); 3 BPt 17 Nov (DG); 3 FBF 17-18 Nov (mob), roosting; JBSP 18-19 Nov (mob).

SEDGE WREN (R10): 4, FKP thru 4 Oct (mob), bred here.

Evening Grosbeak: arr 25 Oct; max 49 Arshomomaque Pres, SUFF 8 Nov (JS), *intro*.

Purple Finch: max "hundreds" Hallock SP Pres SUFF 10 Oct (MLL); 118 High-Rock P, RICH 31 Oct (CBa), *intro*.

Common Redpoll: arr 31 Oct; max 19 Crab Meadow B, SUFF 29 Nov (TS), *intro*.

Red Crossbill: arr 18 Oct; "Douglas-fir"/Type 4 recorded at Roosevelt Estate CP SUFF 21

Nov (D. Rogers); max 350 JBSP 21 Nov (LWW), *intro*.

Pine Siskin: arr 20 Sep; max 6,575 BPT 15 Oct (DG), *intro*; 200+ Northville yard 8 Oct (MLL) unprecedented fallout, see p. 14.

American Goldfinch: max 8,037 RMSP 21 Nov (TSA); 200+ Northville yard 8 Oct (MLL) unprecedented fallout, see p. 14.

Lapland Longspur: many: arr RMSP 26 Sep (SSM, AR), Cupsogue CP SUFF 26 Sep (DF, MCo, SSM, PJL); Kings Pt, NASS 2 Oct (MMb), unusual loc.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Clay-colored Sparrow: multiple in each county.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 7,714 RMSP 8 Nov (mob).

Vesper Sparrow: max 8 VCP 31 Oct (NSo).

LECONTE'S SPARROW: JBWR 24 Sep (FC); CHP 25-27 Oct (mob).

Lark Sparrow: multiple in each county except BRON and RICH: max 2 FBF 8 Sep (LE).

Nelson's Sparrow: max 12 PlumbB 23 Oct (TPR).

Savannah Sparrow: max 300 FKP 9 Nov (JRG).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW (R10): CP 3 Oct (mob); BPt 25 Oct (DG).

Song Sparrow: max 300 CHP 25 Oct (mob).

Swamp Sparrow: max 247 Greentree Estate, NASS 17 Oct (SPe), near state high count of 258 from this location in 2018.

Yellow-breasted Chat: one or more inds in each county except NASS.

Boat-tailed Grackle: nowhere away from South Shore locs: max 440 Charles Memorial P, QUEE 21 Nov (RSe).

Rusty Blackbird: max 27 FT 18 Nov (mob), low.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (R10): m FMCP, 16 Sep – 29 Nov (mob), *intro*.

Bobolink: max 280 Race Pt, SUFF 4 Sep (AD).

Worm-eating Warbler: dep Hoyt Town P, SUFF 31 Sep (NSo).

Golden-winged Warbler: GWC 2, 17 Sep (mob); PP 9 Sep (ME, LE); CP 22 Sep (mob); FP 26-27 (mob).

Blue-winged Warbler: dep CP 11 Oct (DHo).

Prothonotary Warbler: Battery P, NEW 17 Sep (CMr).

Tennessee Warbler: late: IHP 14 Nov thru end of period (mob).

Connecticut Warbler: many: 10 SUFF, 6 NASS, 10 QUEE, 6 KING, 1 RICH, 2 BRON, and 6 NEWY, *intro*.

American Redstart: Bellport, SUFF 6 Nov (TA).

Cape May Warbler: IHP 25-28 Nov (mob), late.

Northern Parula: ~ 50 in Northville SUFF yard 25, 26 Sep (MLL).

Magnolia Warbler: Bayard Cutting Arboretum, SUFF 11 Nov (KJK), late.

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER: JBWR 4 Sep (R&L Taubman, mob).

PAINTED REDSTART: FBF 18 Oct (R. Payne, mob).

Summer Tanager: East R P, NEWY 19 Sep (NB); CP 19-23 Oct, (TPI, GP, "Jordana M").

Scarlet Tanager: GWC 5 Nov (eBird user "krolwing"), ph, late.

WESTERN TANAGER: GwC 13-25 Nov (E. Leonardi, mob).

Blue Grosbeak: reported from over 20 locations across all counties except BRON.

Northern Cardinal: max 49 RMSP 31 Oct (MMb, SSM, PJL), *intro*.

Dickcissel: reports from all counties: max 3 Coney Is Ck, KING 5 Sep (JH).

EXOTICS

Lined Seedeater: APP 12-21 Sep (mob), unbanded at Oakland L, QUEE.

European Goldfinch: thru, sev from KING and also: FMCP 5-11 Sep (JoK); VCP 14-15 Sep (KW, PHo).

ADDENDUM TO THE SUMMER 2020 REPORT

In the Savannah Sparrow entry, the text indicated here in bold was omitted in error:

Savannah Sparrow: Jun reps confined to NYC mounds and grass/farmlands in the Calverton-Riverhead-North Fork strip, except for 6 Republic Airport and 14 St. Charles Cemetery, both Farmingdale, SUFF 6 Jun (CJC: M. Cooper). More widespread reports late Aug indicative of migrants, *intro*.

REPORTING YOUR OBSERVATIONS

Observers are strongly encouraged to report their findings directly to the Regional Editors, to help identify significant trends. Summary reports of observations; impressions of notable patterns in the weather, timing of migration, unusual scarcity or abundance of particular species, etc.; and notable individual records are highly valued. For maximum usefulness, send in reports no later than the 15th day of the month following the end of each season:

15 March, 15 June, 15 September, and 15 December.

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in BOLD; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in UPPER CASE letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! – details seen by Regional Editor; ad – adult; alt – alternate plumage; arr – arrival or first of season; BBS – Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS – bird of the season; CBC – Christmas Bird Count; Co – County; I – Island; imm – immature; intro – see introduction to report; juv – juvenile; L – Lake; max – maximum; mob – multiple observers; Mt – Mountain; NYSDEC – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR – National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC – report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P – park; Pd – Pond; ph – photographed; Pres – Preserve; Pt – Point; Res – Reservoir; Ri – River; SP – State Park; spm – specimen; subad – subadult; T – Town of; thru – throughout period; Twn – township; WMA – Wildlife Management Area; y – young.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS CODES

These codes are listed in ascending order to highest breeding codes.

POSSIBLE: H – in appropriate habitat; S – singing bird.

PROBABLE: S7 – singing male present 7+ days; M – multiple (7+) singing males; P – pair in suitable habitat; T – territorial defense; C – courtship, display, or copulation; N – visiting probable nest site; A – agitated behavior; B – woodpecker/wren nest building.

CONFIRMED: PE – physiological evidence; CN – carrying nesting material; NB – nest building; DD – distraction display; UN – used nest; ON – occupied nest; FL – recently fledged and precocial young; CF – carrying food; FY – feeding young; FS – carrying fecal sac; NE nest with eggs; NY – nest with young.

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:

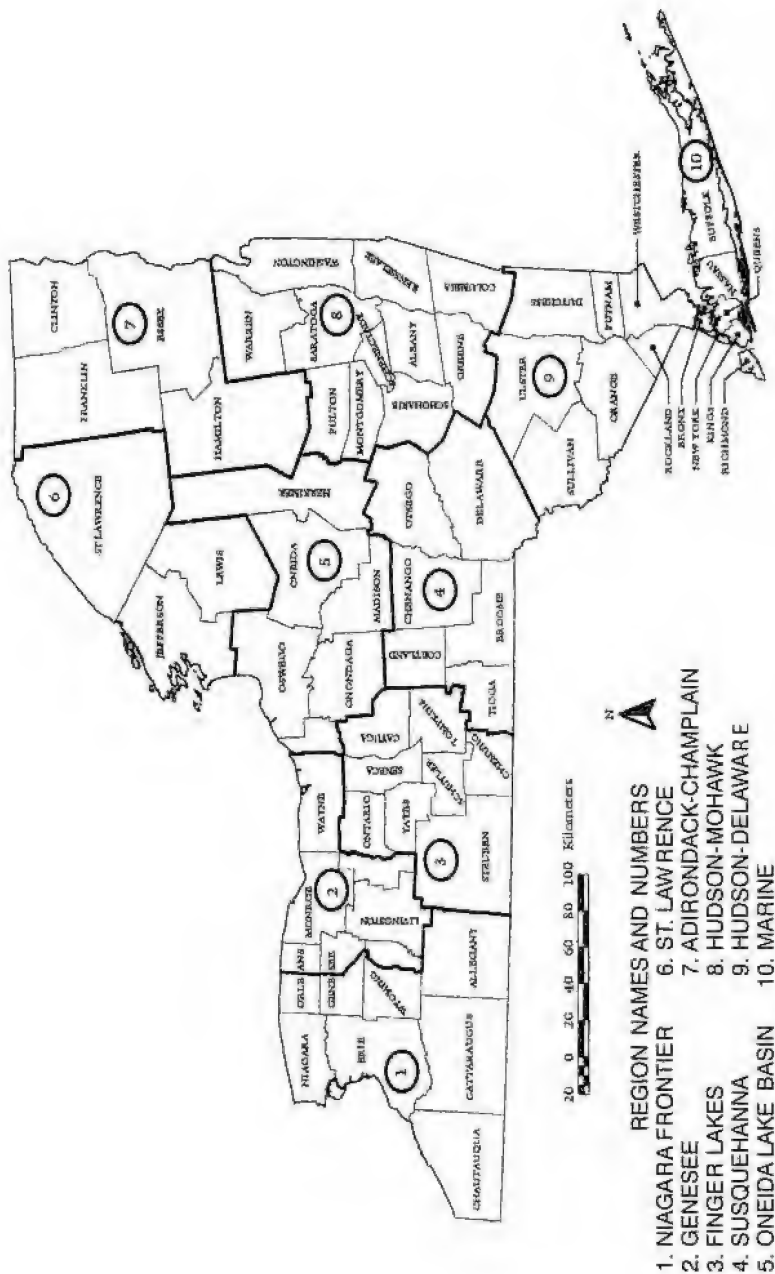
the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia; NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19 from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:

the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64 from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21 from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.



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The **KINGBIRD**



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NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Individual	\$30	\$40 / \$50 / \$60
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CONTENTS

Report of the New York State Avian Records Committee for 2017	102
January Waterfowl Count 2021	
Bill Ostrander	121
Notes and Observations	
Fishing phoebes in East Hampton, NY	
Jane and Alfred Ross	125
Spotted Towhees in New York State	
Douglas J. Futuyma and Shaibal S. Mitra.	126
Patch Birding: A case for patch birding	
Gary Kohlenberg	128
Highlights of the Season—Winter 2020-21	
Michael F. Cooper	129
Regional Reports	
Winter 2020-21	133
Photo Gallery	
Winter 2020-21	153
Standard Regional Report Abbreviations, Reporting Deadlines, and Map of Reporting Regions	207

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Back Cover – Eastern Kingbird, © Andrew Valley.

REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE FOR 2017

The New York State Avian Records Committee (hereafter “NYSARC” or the “Committee”) evaluated 78 submissions involving 59 occurrences of New York State review species from 2017. Additionally, the Committee received one submission of a New York State review species from a previous year. Reports were received from 24 of the 62 counties. However, no reports were received from the pelagic zone. The names of the 58 contributors that submitted materials (written reports, photographs, video and audio recordings, and sketches) are listed alongside accepted reports and again at the end of this document. Where possible, the names of the original finders are included in the narratives. Production of this Annual Report is a team effort. In addition to the contributors referenced above, several people have encouraged and/or helped observers to prepare and submit documentation. We offer sincere gratitude for their assistance to our cause.

HOW TO SUBMIT REPORTS

Advice on how to prepare and submit a report is provided on the NYSARC pages within the NYSOA web site: <http://nybirds.org/NYSARC/index.htm>

On the NYSARC web pages, a list of species requested for review (The Review List) is provided, along with illustrated copies of previous annual reports. The Committee is very grateful to Carena Pooth (NYSOA Web Master) for updating and continuously improving the NYSARC web site. An on-line reporting form allows observers to compose a written report and attach up to three digital image files (maximum size 7 MB per photo). Documentation (written reports and photographs) and any other correspondence for the Committee can also be sent via email to the NYSARC Secretary, Gary Chapin, at: nysarc44@nybirds.org. As a last resort, you can also use regular mail to get your report to:

Gary Chapin, 125 Pine Springs Drive, Ticonderoga, NY 12883

HIGHLIGHTS

2017 saw the addition of two new species to the New York State checklist, Clark’s Grebe at Oswego and Inca Dove near Jamestown. Just as exciting was the first record of a Corn Crane since 1963 that was also the first sight record of a live bird, which occurred along the Ocean Parkway at Cedar Beach on Long Island. Other great records from 2017 were the state’s third Anna’s Hummingbird, a Ross’s Gull in the Adirondacks, a Yellow-nosed Albatross seen from shore off Robert Moses State Park, and the state’s third Hammond’s Flycatcher, a well-watched bird at Central Park in New York City.

COMMITTEE NEWS

The 2017 annual meeting was held via Skype on 8 Sep 2019, seven months after the 2016 annual meeting. Note that the annual meeting year refers to the latest reports reviewed at that meeting. At the 2017 annual meeting there were only two reports of birds seen in 2017 that had not been completed in earlier voting rounds and email discussion. In addition, eight records of the former Mew Gull (Short-billed/Common Gull), were revisited

regarding what was at the time subspecific identification. Following the completion of review and the subsequent split of Short-billed and Common Gulls (Chesser *et. al* 2021), these revisited records are published here in a special section later in this report (note that one 2017 record of Short-billed Gull is included in the main body of the report). Changes to the review list were also discussed, and it was decided that none were needed at this time. The “auto-accept” list for species submitted to eBird and accepted with a clear, identifiable photo under eBird review was discussed and finalized. What this means is that reports of species on this list that are submitted to eBird with a clear identifiable photo can be accepted by NYSARC without formal review. However, anyone on the Committee may request that any eBird record be formally reviewed, even if there is a clear photo.

Note: In the reports accepted, listed below, the range of dates for a record may not be known based only on the documents submitted to NYSARC. Accepted eBird reports may extend the known range of dates and if NYSARC also found these reports acceptable, the eBird range of dates are listed along with those from the NYSARC record submission.

2017 Reports Accepted

Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)

2017-07-A One, Wallkill, **Ulster**, 6-7 Feb (Kenneth M. McDermott, ph Peter Schoenberger, Bruce Nott, Jr.). eBird 6-7 Feb

2017-16-A One, Kinderhook, **Columbia**, 8 Apr (Naomi Lloyd, ph N. Lloyd)

2017-43-A One, Plattsburgh, **Clinton**, 11 Nov (Michael B. Burgess, ph M. Burgess). eBird 11 Nov

2017-46-A One, Deep Hollow Ranch, **Suffolk**, 28 Oct (Bruce Horwith, ph Paul D’Andrea)

2017-49-A One, Coxsackie, **Greene**, 6 Dec (Richard Guthrie). eBird 6 Dec

2017-50-A One, North Babylon, **Suffolk**, 4 Feb (Peter Morris, ph P. Morris). eBird 4, 5, 8, 11 Feb

Records of Pink-footed Goose in New York continue to grow rapidly. They provide evidence of how quickly a species can go from unreported to an expected annual migrant/visitor. The accumulating body of records shows that the majority of records are from Long Island, the goose migration hotspots near the Wallkill River in Orange and Ulster Counties, and Lake Champlain. Combined with a few other records along the Hudson River corridor, they indicate that Long Island and a roughly 50-mile strip of easternmost mainland New York are where this species is most likely to show up. All six of the records in 2017 fit into this pattern. The Wallkill bird was found by Bruce Nott, Jr. The others were all discovered by those listed above, who submitted written documentation to NYSARC.

Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)

2017-13-A Two, Plattsburgh, **Clinton**, 18 Mar (Gary Chapin, ph Paul Osenbaugh). eBird 18 Mar

Found by Stacy Robinson, these two Barnacle Geese provided a first record for Clinton County. They were only seen on one day.

Clark’s Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*)

2017-09-A/G One, Oswego, **Oswego**, 22 Feb-1 Mar (Kevin McGann, Doug Daniels, Greg D. Dashnau, Brent Bomkamp, Dennis Anderson, Jr., Kenneth M. McDermott, Bill Purcell, ph K. McGann, D. Daniels, G. Dashnau, B. Bomkamp, D. Anderson, Bruce Nott, Jr., B. Purcell). eBird 22-28 Feb, 1, 4-6 Mar

Oswego Harbor has garnered many fine records over the years and has another one with this first state record Clark's Grebe. Found by Gregg Dashnau on 22 Feb, the grebe lingered until 6 Mar and was enjoyed by dozens, perhaps hundreds, including many of New York's birders wishing to add it to their state lists. Clark's Grebe's congener, Western Grebe (*A. occidentalis*), has occurred about 30 times in the state since the first fully accepted record in 1978 and it had to be firmly ruled out in order for this record to be accepted. The two species are similar, somewhat variable, and they occasionally hybridize, creating identification challenges for birders and records committees alike. The visual appearance of this grebe was classic for this species, including these features: eye completely surrounded by white, bright orange-yellow bill, pale flanks, and narrow black stripe on the back of the neck (see Sibley 2014). The recorded call, on the other hand, was not, and there was disagreement about whether it was fine for Clark's, more like a Western, or intermediate between the two species. Experts familiar with the calls of both species differed in their opinions. In personal emails to a Committee member, Tony Leukering, Nathan Pieplow, and Steve Mlodinow all expressed strong reservations about two recordings of the Oswego Harbor grebe (eBird 2017a,b), which they considered to be much closer to Western Grebe vocalizations than to Clark's Grebe. However, Michael Hilchey, in a personal email to another Committee member, disagreed, indicating that vocalizations in the two species were quite varied and not conclusive for identification. The disagreement among the experts regarding the reliability of the recorded vocalizations for identification was enough for the Committee to place more weight on the appearance of the bird and accept the record.

The first fully accepted Western Grebe record in New York involved a bird at Tupper Lake in St. Lawrence County, found on 2 Jul 1978 and remaining in the area through early October (Bolsinger 2007). In 1985 the American Ornithological Union (AOU) split Western Grebe into the nominate "dark form" and the pale Clark's Grebe. After this, some people wondered if the Tupper Lake bird was actually a Clark's Grebe, mainly due to a photograph of the bird, taken by the late Tom Davis, and published in *The Kingbird* (see Delehanty 1978). The black and white reprint of the color photograph did not reproduce well and the grebe appeared to have a very pale bill and substantial white around the eye. The photo was published again in *The Kingbird*, this time in color, along with an article by Jeff Bolsinger, clarifying the record and the confusion surrounding the photo (see Bolsinger 2007). In this photograph, the features look quite different than in the black and white photo, and in all respects, the grebe appears to be a classic Western.

Clark's Grebe is an uncommon western North American species, regularly occurring from British Columbia east to Minnesota and south into Mexico. It is often found with Western Grebe, showing similar habits and habitat preferences (Sibley 2014). It remains extremely rare well east of the Mississippi River. Besides the Oswego record, eBird (Jun 2020) shows only four records in this area—from Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina, and Maine. Interestingly, Clark's Grebe made it into the top twenty list of species most likely to be added to the New York State checklist in 2010 (Gochfeld 2010) but did not receive a single vote in 2016 (Gochfeld 2016)!

Inca Dove (*Columbina inca*)

2017-53-A One, Lakewood, **Chautauqua**, 4-12 Dec (Thomas Simmons, ph T. Simmons). eBird 8, 9 Dec

For people who take an interest in trying to predict the next new species to occur in New York, few gave much consideration to Inca Dove. In the last two compilations of prognostications for New York (Gochfeld 2010 and Gochfeld 2016) only one person chose

this species. On 4 Dec, Tom Simmons noticed a much smaller dove than the typical Mourning Doves he sees in the neighborhood, attracted to seed spilled on the ground beneath his feeder. To his amazement, he identified the bird as an Inca Dove, not only a first for New York State but one of very few records north of Georgia in the East. Knowing how significant the sighting was, and concerned about the neighbors' reactions to the many birders it could attract, Simmons decided against an open invitation to birders to come and see the bird. Only a lucky few were allowed to view it over the course of its nine-day stay. Inca Dove is a straightforward identification in North America. Compared to others of its genus, such as Common Ground-Dove (*C. passerina*), it has a much longer tail with extensive white on the sides and scaly dorsal plumage. It is familiar to most birders who live in or visit the southwest, as the forlorn bird of "no hope" because of its distinctive call.

In eBird (Jun 2020), this is the first record in North America north and east of Maryland and Ohio, respectively. Since 2000, but particularly since 2010, records have exploded in the southeastern United States. Mueller (2020) shows the range being from southeastern California to western Louisiana and south into Central America as far as the middle of Costa Rica. eBird (Jun 2020) shows the species range extending through Costa Rica with recent records in northernmost Panama. eBird also nicely shows the recent range expansion through Louisiana, Mississippi, southern Alabama, and into the western panhandle of Florida, as well as a handful of recent records in Georgia. As of this writing, there are only a half dozen records in eBird north of Georgia and well east of the Mississippi River but with the surge going on elsewhere, that appears likely to greatly change very soon. Although the range extension of the Inca Dove is well documented, the factors responsible for it remain poorly understood (Mueller 2020).

Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*)

2017-48-A One, Medina, **Orleans**, 20 Oct (Celeste Morien, ph C. Morien). eBird 20 Oct Having cleaned and put away her hummingbird feeders for the winter, Celeste Morien was not expecting any more of these little gems so late in the year. Her husband, Tom Morien, noticed an article that suggested you should keep the feeders up longer, just in case there is a lingering hummingbird in the neighborhood. So, out they came again. A week later, well after all the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds would likely have departed Western New York, Celeste suddenly had a dull hummer appear at her feeder. Understanding that Rufous Hummingbirds are known as vagrants during the fall in the Northeast, she studied the bird carefully but saw nothing to suggest that species and assumed that it must be just a late Ruby-throated. She completed her eBird checklist by including photos that she had taken. However, as soon as Jim Pawlicki saw the photos in the eBird checklist, he suspected that it was a female/immature Anna's Hummingbird. Subsequent study confirmed his initial thoughts. Word was put out to local birders who tried to see the bird that same day and the following but it was never seen again. This is only the third record in the state. The first was in Broome County in 1998 and the second in Sullivan County in 2007.

Corn Crane (*Crex crex*)

2017-37-A/C One, Cedar Beach, **Suffolk**, 7-8 Nov (Tim Healy, Anders Peltomaa, Ken Feustel, ph T. Healy, A. Peltomaa, K. Feustel). eBird 7-8 Nov

Even with high expectations for a late fall cold front that had come through, Corn Crane could not have been on the observers'—or any New Yorker's—minds on the morning of 7 Nov. The last of only six state records was in 1963, and the species has shown steep declines in much of its range since then (del Hoyo, *et al.* 1996). Thus, one can understand Ken and Sue Feustel's initial puzzlement and special care in teasing out the identification

of this bird, found foraging under the bushes along the Ocean Parkway, a busy commuter highway. Patricia Lindsay and Shai Mitra were summoned, and arrived within minutes to help with the identification. Phone calls back and forth from the cars confirmed something almost unimaginable—a juvenile Corn Crake. Its juvenile plumage differed in subtle ways from the depictions of breeding adults in field guides at hand, and the observers took care to search the internet for photos of juveniles. Ken describes how the experience unfolded in his entertaining article in *The Kingbird* (Feustel 2018).

A thorough examination of this species' occurrence in the Western Hemisphere, beginning with the first documented record, ca. 1833, appears in the same issue of *The Kingbird* (DeCandido and Allen 2018). This compilation shows that five of the six prior NYS records were from Long Island, and that four of five with known dates were from early November. Not only was this the first sight record of a living Corn Crake in New York, it is exceptional even at the hemispheric scale having been found by birders and observed by many. Indeed, hundreds of people were able to see this bird before its unfortunate demise; it was found dead on the morning of 9 Nov, having been hit by a car. The specimen resides at the American Museum of Natural History, Skin #841733, where it was confirmed to be a hatching year male. Feather samples were sent to the Smithsonian Institute for stable isotope analysis to try and determine its origin.

There are 180 eBird entries, many with stunning photos. As a matter of interest, it should be noted that the Feustels were already known rail magnets, having found not one but *three* Yellow Rails (*Coturnicops noveboracensis*) on the Captree CBC over the years, all at Oak Beach Marsh, not far from where this bird was found.

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

2017-24-A One, Napeague, **Suffolk**, 14 May (Hannah Mirando, ph H. Mirando). eBird 14 May

2017-28-A One, Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge, **Genesee**, 23 May (Kayo J. Roy, ph K. Roy). eBird 8, 11, 12, 23, 26 May, 17, 20 Jun

2017-29-A One, Cupsogue Beach County Park, **Suffolk**, 24 Jun (Brent Bomkamp, ph B. Bomkamp). eBird 24 Jun

2017 saw three records of Black-necked Stilt in the state, including one more from upstate, where the species is extremely rare. The downstate records were from Napeague, found by Hannah Mirando on 14 May, and Cupsogue Beach County Park, found by Brent Bomkamp and Brendan Fogarty on 24 Jun, both supported by clear photographs. The Iroquois NWR bird was found by Celeste Morien on 8 May and provided a first record for Genesee County and Kingbird Region One. Sightings of the latter were spread out over six weeks. eBird records show that the bird also spent time in the adjacent Tonawanda WMA.

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*)

2017-18-A One, Timber Point County Park, **Suffolk**, 20, 21, 25 Apr (Brent Bomkamp, ph B. Bomkamp). eBird 20, 21, 25 Apr

Brent Bomkamp nicely documented this lovely black Ruff that was found by Ken Feustel. Timber Point has become renowned for the many great shorebirds that have been discovered there and it seems that this species is rather fond of the place, with four records from there and the adjacent Heckscher SP in a span of only six years, from 2013 to 2018 (eBird Jun 2020).

Common Murre (*Uria aalge*)

2017-03-A One, Manhattan Beach, **Kings**, 21 Jan (Jordan Spindel, ph J. Spindel)

This bird was found lying on the ground at Manhattan Beach in Brooklyn. It was picked up and taken to Wild Bird Fund, where it died shortly after. Jordan Spindel documented the bird for NYSARC with clear diagnostic photos. In pelagic areas offshore of New York, Common Murre is much more likely to be found than Thick-billed Murre (*U. lomvia*) but along the coast, the opposite is true, with many more occurrences of the latter. Indeed, eBird (Jan 2021) does not show any records of Common Murre for Brooklyn.

Ross's Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*)

2017-04-A/C One, Tupper Lake, **Franklin**, 28, 30 Jan (Thomas Williams, Brent Bomkamp, Bill Purcell, ph T. Williams, John Gluth, Taylor Sturm, B. Purcell). eBird 28 Jan-2 Feb

Ross's Gull has always been a highly sought after species for birders. The most recent in the state was a first basic individual at Tupper Lake in the Adirondack Mountains, during mid winter. The story of this bird's discovery is a good one and it was recounted by Joan Collins (2017). Carpenters, working on the home of birder, Jack Delehanty, would ice-fish in front of the abode. One of them, Mike Thibodeau, noticed a gull eating the walleye eggs which were used as bait and left out on the ice. He pointed it out to Delehanty, who took photos of the gull. Delehanty emailed his photos to local birder, Larry Master, who immediately recognized the bird as a Ross's Gull in first-winter plumage! Word was put out and throngs of birders descended upon the area. The gull moved to a more accessible area closer to NY Route 30 and most of the birders who tried for the gull were successful in seeing it. Incredibly, this is now the tenth accepted record for the state with the first being found in 1986 (Andre, *et al.* 1987). Although Ross's Gull is a great rarity anywhere in New York, the Adirondack Mountains, where the exceptionally cold climate allows for limited open water, would be considered one of the least likely locations for this species to show up in mid winter.

Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*)

2017-31-A One, Crab Meadow Beach, **Suffolk**, 18 Jun (Taylor Sturm, ph T. Sturm). eBird 18 Jun

2017-36-A One, Mount Sinai, **Suffolk**, 20 Sep (Aidan Perkins). eBird 20 Jun

Late on a summer day, Taylor Sturm found an adult Franklin's Gull at Crab Meadow, loafing on a sandbar with Laughing Gulls. This was a life-bird for Sturm so he studied it carefully and obtained some diagnostic photos, which rule out the superficially similar Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*). Birding his local patch, where he often sees Laughing Gulls, Aidan Perkins found a gull which he immediately realized was different. The bird's smaller size and puffier eye crescents made it stand out from the Laughing Gulls. He also noted white tips on the outer primaries when it was seen in flight, all of which helped him to identify the bird as a Franklin's Gull. Franklin's Gull is a review species for the downstate region only, mainly due to its semi-regular appearance on the Niagara River, negating the requirement for review in upstate regions.

Mew Gull (*Larus canus brachyrhynchus*)

2017-17-A One, Midland Beach, **Richmond**, 29 Mar (Brent Bomkamp, ph B. Bomkamp). eBird 29 Mar

This adult Mew Gull of the North American race (now assigned full species status as Short-billed Gull: Chesser *et al.* 2021) was discovered by Richard Veit and was only seen on the one day. Documentation submitted by Brent Bomkamp included photographs and a thorough description of the bird, as well a discussion of the pertinent details for

identifying the bird as this subspecies. Records of Mew Gull have been increasing in recent years, possibly due to an increased interest in gulls shown by birders. Nowhere has this been more apparent in the state than in New York City. For many years, the default assumption for the subspecies of Mew Gull in coastal areas was the nominate European race. However, keen gull-watchers have now documented multiple individuals of the North American race there.

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*)

2017-15-A One, Goat Island, **Niagara**, 1 Jan (Christopher Kundl, ph C. Kundl, Dominic Sherony). eBird 1, 2, 6, 8, 14-17, 21, 22 Jan

The late Chris Kundl enjoyed studying large gulls and he visited Goat Island on the Niagara River, which is known for attracting many gulls, several times a week during the winter months. Although it was a life-bird for him, Chris knew what he had when he found this adult Slaty-backed Gull. The bird was enjoyed by many, as it often roosted in the shallow waters off Goat Island during the three weeks that it was in the area. Note that the eBird records for the 21 and 22 Jan dates listed above were on the upper Niagara River, near Goat Island, but on the Canadian side of the border. There were also eBird records on 9, 10, 13 Jan at Thorold, Ontario, about seven miles from Goat Island, that likely involved the same bird. In addition, Kundl helpfully pointed out in his report that sightings of a Slaty-backed Gull in Kitchener, Ontario on 28 Nov and 2 Dec 2016, about 75 miles from Goat Island, appeared to involve the same bird as well. And finally, a Slaty-backed Gull in Erie, Pennsylvania, off and on from 26 Jan to 6 Feb, shortly after the Niagara bird disappeared, may well have been this individual but photos were insufficient to be very confident of that. Landfills are known to be highly attractive to this species and there are large landfills in Niagara Falls, Thorold, Erie, and likely Kitchener, as well.

Bridled Tern (*Onychoprion anaethetus*)

2017-34-A One, Great Gull Island, **Suffolk**, 2, 3, 5 Sep (Joseph DiCostanzo, ph J. DiCostanzo). eBird 2, 3, 5 Sep

First detected by its distinctive calls, Joe DiCostanzo found this bird among the breeding Common Terns during the annual summer tern banding study on Great Gull Island, the second such discovery in two summers and very likely the same individual. Eight others involved with the study viewed it during the three days it was present, and DiCostanzo and Stefan Passlick documented it with superb photos. As noted in the 2016 annual NYSARC report, presumably this same adult bird would be detected for several subsequent years, and was also documented in 2018 and 2019. In 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic forced suspension of the project and as of this writing, it is unknown if the bird returned for a fifth summer. An interesting side note mentioned in DiCostanzo's submission was the presence of an adult Bridled Tern (perhaps this same individual) on Falkner Island, off Guilford, CT in late July 2017, also the site of a major Common and Roseate Tern colony, 28 miles to the west of Great Gull Island, inside Long Island Sound.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

2017-58-A One, Democrat Point, **Suffolk**, 20 Jun (Shai Mitra). eBird 20 Jun

2017-59-A One, Nickerson Beach, **Nassau**, 15 Jun (Shai Mitra, ph S. Mitra). eBird 15 Jun
Shai Mitra was counting shearwater carcasses on Democrat Point when he picked out a first-summer Arctic Tern by its distinctive flight, described in great detail based on his extensive experience with the species. He was able to photograph the first-summer bird at Nickerson Beach, proving it distinct from at least one adult bird found and photographed

there on 7 and 9 Jun by several observers. This species' review status was updated by the Committee in September of 2017 to N (everywhere in the state) except Cupsogue County Park/Moriches Inlet, where it had established a pattern of regular occurrence over the past decade, albeit with considerable inter-year variation. These two reports submitted by Mitra, the Arctic Tern "guru", included an analysis of this variability. He noted that occurrence was notably high in 2012 and 2013, then very low from 2014-2016, despite the efforts of more and better-prepared observers, and that numbers of first-summer/ second calendar year (SY) birds have been especially variable from year to year. An uptick in 2017 was driven by SY birds, as illustrated by these two reports, multiple eBird reports from Cupsogue May through July, and eBird reports from Old Inlet in Bellport (2 SYs on 17 Jun) and Dune Road near Shinnecock Inlet (SY, also on 17 Jun: eBird Jan 2021).

Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*)

2017-56-A One, Moriches Inlet Flats, **Suffolk**, 29 Jun, 1 Jul (Shai Mitra, ph S. Mitra). eBird 29 Jun-1 Jul

The Moriches Inlet Flats, like other ocean inlets on Long Island where large flocks of terns regularly congregate, occasionally attract rare and uncommon terns. On 29 Jun, Shai Mitra found a second-year Sandwich Tern roosting among a large flock of mostly Common Terns, which also included Least, Roseate, Black, and Royal Terns. The bird continued until at least 1 Jul, when it was seen by many observers. Sandwich Tern has become a regular visitor to coastal Long Island, especially in June and July, and has since been removed from the review list for downstate. Upstate, of course, it remains an exceptionally rare vagrant and any reports from there should be carefully documented.

Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*)

2017-26-A One, Croton River at Hudson River, **Westchester**, 30 May (Anne Swaim, ph A. Swaim). eBird 30 May-1 Jun

Although a regular breeder on Long Island, it is very rare to see a Black Skimmer away from the coast in NY. Even records from Westchester County are quite scarce with most of the few occurrences there being during the summer months. This Westchester County bird was found by Anne Swaim where the Croton River empties into the Hudson River. The skimmer lingered for three days. This was actually the second record for this location, with the first occurring there on 30 Aug 1987 (Andrle, *et al.* 1987).

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

2017-30-A/B One, Robert Moses State Park, **Suffolk**, 6 May (Taylor Sturm, Peter Morris). eBird 6 May

While there are numerous records of Pacific Loon in the state, particularly in late fall and winter, the past 10 years have seen an increasing number of records of birds migrating along the coast in the spring (eBird Aug 2020, NYSARC online database Aug 2020). These birds have been found with groups of Common and Red-throated Loons. On 6 May, Pete Morris and Taylor Sturm found another Pacific Loon in this context, while seawatching from Robert Moses State Park—an adult in alternate plumage, flying east with Red-throated Loons.

Yellow-nosed Albatross (*Thalassarche chlororhynchos*)

2017-22-A/B One, Robert Moses State Park, **Suffolk**, 6 May (Taylor Sturm, Peter Morris, video T. Sturm). eBird 6 May

Seawatching from Robert Moses SP under the right conditions always holds great potential, as proven once again by this amazing pick-up by Pete Morris and Taylor Sturm. Though veteran seawatcher Morris was the first to spy it, it was Sturm's swift reaction and consummate skill that succeeded in capturing digiscoped iPhone video as the bird flew by. Patricia Lindsay and Shai Mitra had just left the seawatch to explore further east when they were alerted to a Pacific Loon that had just passed the seawatch. This rarity (see above report) managed to hold bird-of-the-day distinction for less than five minutes, as another call followed that an albatross was heading east in its wake! Scrambling to the beach at Field 5, Lindsay and Mitra both managed to get on the loon, but the latter was denied the albatross as he went back for a second scope just before it flew by. Lindsay picked it up between deep troughs as it turned out to sea, getting a brief and very unsatisfying look at it. Back at the watch, the stunned Morris and Sturm relayed what detail they had seen to Lindsay and Mitra, and showed off the video, the end of which had captured Pete's classic, accented expletive as the bird disappeared behind the lifeguard shed.

The documentation for this record clearly shows that the bird was not a Black-browed Albatross (*T. melanophris*). The Committee also considered that this could have been a Gray-headed Albatross (*T. chrysostoma*), Northern Buller's Albatross (*T. platei*), or Southern Buller's Albatross (*T. bulleri*). With the complete lack of records of these latter three species in the north Atlantic, the Committee decided that the documentation was sufficient to accept the record. However, if the known distribution or vagrancy status of either of those species should change, this record may need to be re-examined.

There are quite a number of records of Yellow-nosed Albatross from the Western North Atlantic, as detailed in a comprehensive article by Phil Davis in *North American Birds* (2014). NYSARC has accepted two prior records of this species; in addition, the Committee accepted one report as *Thalassarche* sp. (NYSARC online database Jul 2020). There are a few other credible reports from the state as well, with varying levels of detail, collected by Davis (2014), and in an article in *The Kingbird* (Buckley and Schairer 2000).

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*)

2017-38-A One, East Meredith, **Delaware**, 2 Oct (Doug Amadon, ph D. Amadon). eBird 2 Oct

In rural Delaware County, Doug Amadon was driving past a beaver dam when something large and white caught his eye. He turned around and drove back to investigate. Standing atop the beaver dam was a juvenile Wood Stork and Amadon soon started snapping photographs. This is the first record accepted by NYSARC since 2011, with two eBird records from 2016 and 2017, both in Erie County, still to be reviewed.

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*)

2017-27-A/B One, Nickerson Beach Park, **Nassau**, 17 Jun (Joshua Malbin, Shai Mitra ph J. Malbin, S. Mitra). eBird 17, 18 Jun

2017-42-A One, Lake Montauk, **Suffolk**, 4 Oct (Anders Peltomaa, ph A. Peltomaa). eBird 28 Sep–5 Nov

Until recently, this southern species has always been extremely rare in the state. However, records have been increasing considerably during the past decade or less. Many, and probably most of these sightings, are not associated with tropical storms. While inland sightings have gotten the most publicity, coastal records, such as the two discussed here, are increasing with even greater frequency. The Lake Montauk bird was reportedly discovered on 27 Sep by Peter Topping and it lingered until 5 Nov, providing an unusually long opportunity to reliably observe the species in New York. The booby at Nickerson

Beach was discovered by Joshua Malbin on 17 Jun and was only observed that day and early the next morning. Unfortunately, the bird was not well and apparently collapsed into the netting of a Piping Plover enclosure. Rehabilitators were unable to save the bird after retrieving it.

White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*)

2017-23-A One, Valley Stream State Park, **Nassau**, 28 Apr (Robert J. Berlingeri). eBird 28 Apr

2017-51-A Five, Town of Clinton, **Dutchess**, 15 Jul–1 Aug (Barbara Butler, ph Adrienne Popko)

2017 saw two more records of White Ibis in the state, as records of this southern wader continue to accumulate. The great majority of records in New York are from Long Island, as was the adult bird seen by Robert Berlingeri flying over Valley Stream State Park with a flock of Glossy Ibis on 28 Apr. The birds in Dutchess County furnished another rare inland record. The documentation provided by Barbara Butler included a helpful recounting of the story of these five juveniles. They were discovered by the owner of a cattle farm, Rebecca Osborne, on 15 Jul. The Waterman Bird Club was contacted on the 19th and Butler, along with Adrienne Popko, were able to visit the farm and document the ibises, which were using a manure pit on that day. Osborne reported that the five birds were seen again on 28 Jul, then only two on the 29th, and just one bird on 1 Aug, with no more sightings after that date. On 13, 16, and 17 Jul, up to five juvenile White Ibis were reported in Orange County (eBird Feb 2021). It would seem that these must be the same birds documented from Dutchess County but the overlapping dates of occurrence and the roughly 40 mile flight distance between the locations makes that less than certain. The latter reports will be reviewed by NYSARC in the near future.

Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*)

2017-08-A Two, Robert Moses State Park, **St. Lawrence**, 11 Feb (Bill Purcell, ph B. Purcell)

2017-10-A/B One, Fort Covington Township, **Franklin**, 11, 19 Feb (Gary Chapin, Derek H. Rogers, ph G. Chapin, D. Rogers)

2017-11-A One, Keene, **Essex**, 4 Mar (Gary Chapin, ph G. Chapin)

A Great Gray Owl incursion into NYS starting in late Jan (as first reported in local newspapers) provided many birders with the opportunity to see and enjoy this wonderful owl, though numbers were not as extensive as the invasions in the winters of 1978-79 (64 owls estimated) or 1983-84 (46 owls estimated: Andrle 1998), or perhaps even 1995-96 (25 owls estimated: Regional reports in *The Kingbird*, Vol. 48, Nos. 2 & 3). The four reports accepted by NYSARC detailed birds in the three known areas of occurrence in NY, as this event was primarily limited to the very northern reaches of the state along the south side of the St. Lawrence River, plus one very cooperative individual a little farther south in Keene. Southern Ontario, Canada hosted many more owls but none were found in New York west of Massena. The natural barrier of Lake Ontario presumably kept more from visiting our state.

A review of the 433 accepted eBird reports for this event determined that an even 300 involved birds around Robert Moses State Park and Barnhart Island north of Massena between 9 Feb and 1 Apr; the number of owls involved was not determined, but birds seen consistently at various separate locations indicate that several were present in that area. There were also 12 reports of birds both east and west of Fort Covington, likely involving a few different birds, and discussions concerning the abundance of appropriate habitat for

Great Grays from the Massena area east to Fort Covington, including mostly inaccessible St. Regis Indian Reservation lands, suggested that many more owls were present than actually observed. One Great Gray, well south of the St. Lawrence lowlands, was the subject of 121 eBird reports, this accommodating bird staying along Lime Kiln Road in Keene, in the heart of the Adirondacks, from day of discovery on 2 Mar through 29 Mar.

Gyr Falcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

2017-54-A One, Beekmantown, **Clinton**, 13, 16, 17 Dec (Bill Krueger, ph Tara Fuller, Amy T Bedard)

This beautiful light-morph Gyr Falcon was nicely photographed by Tara Fuller and Amy Bedard and documented for NYSARC by Bill Kreuger.

Hammond's Flycatcher (*Empidonax hammondi*)

2017-47-A One, Central Park, **New York**, 2 Dec (Richard Guthrie, ph R. Guthrie). eBird 26 Nov–12 Dec

The third record for New York, this Hammond's Flycatcher was seen by many at heavily-birded Central Park. The bird was discovered by Linda LaBella and identified from photos taken by Deborah Allen and Ryan Zucker. The first two records for the state were in Nassau and Westchester Counties in fall 2001 and fall 2006, respectively.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*)

2017-39-A One, Wallkill River NWR, **Orange**, 21 Oct (Maria Loukeris, ph M. Loukeris). eBird 21 Oct

2017-55-A One, Heckscher State Park, **Suffolk**, 8 Nov (Patricia Lindsay, ph P. Lindsay). eBird 8 Nov

Maria Loukeris was very fortunate to see the Say's Phoebe at Wallkill River NWR, as it was only in view for ten seconds. However, she was also well-prepared, as she managed nice documentary photographs of the flycatcher atop a snag. Pat Lindsay was similarly fortunate with a bird at Heckscher State Park. She had it for less than a minute but that was enough time for this experienced observer to easily identify the bird and snap a few soft photos to supplement her description. There has been a recent surge in records of this species in the state, with these two being the ninth and tenth in a span of only seven years.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*)

2017-57-A/B One, Robert Moses State Park, **Suffolk**, 17-19, 26 Dec (Patricia Lindsay, Shai Mitra, ph P. Lindsay, S. Mitra). eBird 17-26 Dec

Patricia Lindsay spied this bird flying into a juniper patch with a small group of American Robins during the morning of the Captree CBC. She got her companions on it and called Shai Mitra, who was covering the thickly vegetated pine grove just to the east. He reported having just seen a bluebird-like bird flying over him in company with robins, and giving an unfamiliar call! The count surely suffered a disruption in effort after word spread among the participants and territories were abandoned, at least temporarily, for the chase. Many others got to see it as well during its ten day stay, despite persistent cold and brutal winds during much of that time. On 26 Dec, Lindsay was surprised to see the bird in the parking lot at Robert Moses SP roughly a mile west, and snapped some photos. The bird was subsequently seen back at the junipers, but disappeared after that day.

Close examination of photos of this individual revealed molt limits in the greater coverts, proving conclusively that it was a hatching-year bird. Several of the innermost greater coverts had been replaced, and were slightly longer and fresher with a bluish tinge and broader, neater, buffy edges compared to the adjacent outer coverts, retained juvenile

feathers that were smaller and more heavily worn. This feature can be seen in many of the photos posted to eBird. Pyle (1997) explains that Mountain Bluebirds undergo their first pre-basic (now termed pre-formative) molt on the summer grounds prior to fall migration, and that replacement of the greater coverts is partial in hatching-year birds versus complete in after hatching-year birds.

Fifteen prior records, from 1974 to 2011, are documented in *Bull's Birds of New York State* (Chamberlaine 1998) and in accepted NYSARC reports (NYSARC 2020). Whereas most passerine vagrants show a decided affinity for the coast, only five of fifteen prior Mountain Bluebirds in the state have been reported from Long Island, whereas six have been from the Hudson Valley, in Greene, Dutchess, Orange, and Westchester Counties.

Townsend's Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*)

2017-01-A/B One, Southold, **Suffolk**, 6, 9 Jan (Aaron Virgin, Brent Bomkamp, ph B. Bomkamp). eBird 6-18, 21-23, 25, 31 Jan, 3, 4, 6-12, 14, 15, 17-21, 22-25, 27 Feb, 1, 3-6, 8-13, 16-18, 21, 23, 25, 27 Mar, 1-8 Apr

2017-52-A One, Tiffany Creek Preserve, **Nassau**, 20 Dec (Brent Bomkamp, ph B. Bomkamp). eBird 20, 27-31 Dec 2017, 1-3, 9, 10, 14, 18, 20 Jan 2018

Townsend's Solitaire seems to have increased in the state, with 16 records accepted by NYSARC since the turn of the century and only three prior to that (NYSARC online database Aug 2020). Most records are during the winter months when they are found in areas with good sources of berries, especially juniper (Bowen 2020). Aaron Virgin discovered the Townsend's Solitaire in Southold on the North Fork of Long Island on 6 Jan, in an area with many Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), where it stayed until at least 8 Apr, when it was last reported to eBird. The bird was seen by many, including Brent Bomkamp, who photographed the bird on 9 Jan. The following winter, Bomkamp found his own Townsend's Solitaire at the Tiffany Creek Preserve, in Nassau County, where he observed it feeding on bittersweet (*Celastrus* sp.) berries. This individual continued until at least 20 Jan 2018.

Lark Bunting (*Calamospiza melanocorys*)

2017-45-A One, Robert Moses State Park, **Suffolk**, 28-29 Sep (Brent Bomkamp). eBird 28, 29 Sep

According to Dyer (1998), between 1964 and 1978, Lark Bunting was almost annual, a significant increase in status from the years prior to that. Since then, however, it has returned to its status of earlier years, which could be classified as a rare vagrant to New York. This Lark Bunting was discovered by Brent Bomkamp at Robert Moses State Park, where it was loosely associating with Song Sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*), and it was enjoyed by many over the course of its two-day visit. This record fits into a pattern of vagrancy for the species; of 25 records in New York mentioned by Dyer (1998), most are from Long Island in September. Of the nine records reviewed and accepted by NYSARC, five have been from Long Island, and six have been during the month of September (NYSARC online database Aug 2020). A similar pattern can be seen from a perusal of records from coastal New England and the mid-Atlantic states (eBird Aug 2020).

LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammospiza leconteii*)

2017-40-A/C One, Pelham Bay Park, **Bronx**, 28 Oct (Jared Cole, Peter L. Reisfeld, Jeffrey Ritter, ph J. Cole, P. Reisfeld). eBird 28 Oct

This exciting rarity was discovered by Peter Reisfeld, Jared Cole, and four others who were birding at Pelham Bay Park in the Bronx. Unfortunately, the bird only stayed the one day.

Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*)

2017-25-A One, Prospect Park, **Kings**, 24 May (Anders Peltomaa, ph A. Peltomaa). eBird 24-26 May

This Swainson's Warbler was heard singing and deftly identified, based solely on voice, by regular Prospect Park birder, Ed Crowne, in the Midwood section of the park on 24 May. Anders Peltomaa documented the bird for NYSARC. Over the course of three days, it entertained dozens of birders as it made its way around this dark woodland, typically staying hidden in the understory. However, most everyone who went to see the warbler did eventually lay eyes on it during its song-filled circuits. Many low-light photographs, some audio recordings, and at least one video, were taken during its stay, documenting the fourth record for Prospect Park, which has the highest bird list among New York City parks.

"Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler (*Setophaga coronata auduboni*)

2017-05-A One, Jones Beach State Park, **Nassau**, 1 Jan (Peter Morris)

The western subspecies of Yellow-rumped Warbler, known as "Audubon's Warbler" or "Audubon's" Yellow rumped Warbler, is a very rare visitor to New York. It has in the past been considered a separate species from "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warbler, which of course, is a common to abundant migrant and winter visitant in eastern North America, as well as a breeder in northern parts, including New York. The two forms are relatively distinct by plumage and call. The Jones Beach warbler was discovered during the Southern Nassau County Christmas Bird Count (CBC) by Pete Morris and Taylor Sturm and, typically, it was closely associating with a group of "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warblers. There are only eight previously accepted records (NYSARC online database Aug 2020), with one of those also from coastal Nassau County, similarly found during the Southern Nassau County CBC.

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)

2017-19-A One, Lakeview WMA, **Jefferson**, 2 May (Kevin McGann, ph K. McGann)

While Summer Tanager is a regular, though uncommon, spring migrant on Long Island and in the urban parks of New York City, it is much rarer upstate and particularly in the northern parts of the state (Salzman 1998). Kevin McGann found and photographed this female at Lakeview WMA along the Lake Ontario shore, a first record for Jefferson County. Less than two months later, a record of another individual in the county appeared in eBird (eBird Aug 2020), which the Committee will review at a later date.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)

2017-44-A One, Alley Pond Park, **Queens**, 12 Nov (Ed Becher). eBird 12-28 Nov, 7 Dec–3 Jan 2018

This Western Tanager was discovered by Eric Miller on 12 Nov and lingered at Alley Pond Park until 28 Nov (eBird Feb 2021). It was documented for NYSARC by Ed Becher. Photos in eBird show a female/immature male. A similar-looking Western Tanager was discovered and photographed at nearby Crocheron Park on 7 Dec and lingered until 3 Jan 2018 (eBird Feb 2021). It is believed to be the same individual.

Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)

2017-02-A One, Arden Beach, **Richmond**, 13 Jan (Maya Shikhman, ph M. Shikhman). eBird 13-27 Jan

Maya Shikhman found and photographed this female/immature male Painted Bunting on Staten Island. The bird stayed in the area for two weeks.

2017 Reports Accepted But Origins Unknown or Unnatural

Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*)

2017-33-A One, Champlain, **Clinton**, 9, 13, 14, 22 Aug, 6 Sep (Bill Krueger, ph B. Krueger)

This report involved a bird seen over a four-week period during the summer at the Chazy Riverlands on Lake Champlain. The duck was sometimes seen with or near Mallards, which were slightly smaller. As the bird tipped up to feed, as a typical dabbling duck would, the observer could clearly see that it was unbanded. This fact and also that there are other records of Common Shelduck in the northeast, including three the same year—in Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, and New Brunswick (eBird Jul 2020)—lends credence to the possibility that this was a wild bird. Unfortunately, the photos provided were less than ideal, with much of the head and the bill not showing in any of them. While the photos, combined with the description, were highly suggestive of this species, a minority of Committee members were not convinced that an unusual aberrant plumage of a more common species, or even a domestic duck, could be firmly ruled out. Nevertheless, most of the Committee believed the identification to be correct. The question of origin was discussed at length and while NYSARC recognizes that a wild origin is possible for this species, it is too early to state with much confidence that a pattern of vagrancy has been established. A review of records in eBird shows a cluster of sightings around Montreal, Quebec, from 1993, 1994, 2004, 2005, 2010, and 2014, with several of those occurring during the summer (eBird Jul 2020). There may be additional sightings that do not appear on the eBird map, simply because the eBird reviewer marked them as Introduced/Exotic. In the not-too-distant future, eBird is expected to change the way it handles sightings of possible exotics so that more of these reports will show up on the map. This will make it easier to see if a pattern of vagrancy exists. The bird at Chazy Riverlands, which is not far south of Montreal, was apparently molting body feathers at the very least, as a brown breast band was observed to nearly completely disappear during the course of its stay. In addition, this species is increasing and its range has expanded, with breeding becoming more frequent in northwest Europe (Carboneras and Kirwan 2020). All of this lends support to the idea that a wild Common Shelduck could show up in the state, perhaps as a post-breeding molt migrant.

2016 Report Previously Accepted—Addendum

Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

2016-54-A One, Greece, **Monroe**, 13 Dec (Robert P. Yunick)

The Committee is grateful to Robert Spahn for adding some missing details to this previously accepted record (see D'Anna, *et al.* 2020). Spahn (pers. comm.) indicates that the hummer had been present since October, making for a very lengthy stay! It was last seen by the homeowners on 17 Dec, unfortunately just one day shy of being recorded on the Rochester Christmas Bird Count, although at least it was recorded for the count-week.

2012 Report Previously Accepted

LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammodramus leconteii*)

2012-77-B One, Floyd Bennett Field, **Kings**, 6 Oct (Rob Jett, ph Heydi Lopes). eBird 6 Oct 2012

This report supplements the documentation for a previously accepted record. NYSARC appreciates receiving as much documentation as possible for a record, no matter how long after the sighting. See Wilson, *et al.* (2014) for a full account of this record.

2017 Reports Not Accepted

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*)

2017-20-A One, Lake Ronkonkoma, **Suffolk**, 7 May

The description provided indicated that this was a largish diving bird with a long neck, slender body, and long, sharp, pale gray bill. The plumage was described as being medium to dark gray on top of the head and body with an off white lower head and neck. Since a Western Grebe has a yellowish bill and is bright white on the lower head and neck, the description is at odds with that species. It seemed likely to the reviewers that this was a loon or possibly even a cormorant, perhaps in a plumage that was unfamiliar to the observers.

Franklin's Gull (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*)

2017-35-A One, National Gateway Park, **Richmond**, 13 Sep

This report was believed to be likely correct by some on the Committee, due to the long experience of the observer, but was voted down in the second round of review, based upon a very incomplete description that did not clearly rule out a Laughing Gull (*L. atricilla*). During a five-minute view of the bird in flight with Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*), the observer noted white in the primaries and a partial hood, concluding that this was an adult in basic plumage. White in the primaries can be a helpful distinction between adult Franklin's and Laughing Gulls but unfortunately, the pattern and extent of white was not clearly indicated. With so little other description to go on, the Committee decided that the record could not be supported.

Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michahellis*)

2017-12-A Two, Iron Pier Beach, **Suffolk**, 19 Mar

Although the observer of these two gulls was not an experienced birder, in her own words, she was clearly a keen observer, as she picked up on these two "four-year gulls" with dull yellow legs and knew that this was not typical of Herring Gulls (*L. argentatus*), which show pinkish legs. Her excellent photos showed at least one of the birds, which very much resembled an adult Herring Gull. The bird had a clean unstreaked head, which is not unusual in March, by which time many adults have lost the head streaking sported during the winter months. And indeed, her photos clearly showed that the bird had yellow legs. However, the bird differed from an adult Yellow-legged Gull in having a mantle that was no darker than the adjacent Ring-billed Gulls (*L. delawarensis*) and primaries with less black. Committee members concluded that this was an example of a Herring Gull with yellow legs, which is occasionally seen in North America and more frequently observed in Europe. If the observer observed two such individuals, however, as she indicated, this would seem to be rather exceptional.

Kelp Gull (*Larus dominicanus*)

2017-14-A One, Iron Pier Beach, **Suffolk**, 19, 28 Mar

The excellent photos included with this report show a bird that resembles an adult Great Black-backed Gull (*L. marinus*) in terms of size, shape, and plumage. However, the legs on this individual were clearly yellow, though not bright yellow. Yellow legs are apparently

even more uncommon in Great Black-backed Gulls than they are in Herring Gulls. Seen at the same location and by the same observer who submitted 2017-12, Yellow-legged Gull, above, the Committee again could only conclude that this was a common species, Great Black-backed Gull, with an unusual leg color. This makes three adult gulls which typically have pinkish legs, showing yellow legs at this location around the same date, suggesting the possibility of an environmental factor as being the cause, though it cannot be ruled out that this was simply normal variation and that the observer was fortunate, or unlucky, depending on your viewpoint, to find all of these birds.

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*)

2017-41-A One, Camp Hero State Park, **Suffolk**, 12 Nov

This was a report of a Pacific Loon flying past over the ocean at Montauk, seen by two experienced observers. The report was relatively thorough and discussed how the two expected loons in the region, Common (*G. immer*) and Red-throated (*G. stellata*), differed from the bird that was observed. However, Committee members felt that this was a very difficult identification and especially so with a bird in flight. Although some on the Committee believed that this was a good record, others were concerned about the difficulty of correctly assessing subtle characters under these conditions. In the end the report did not generate enough support after two rounds of review.

Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*)

2017-06-A One, Brasher Falls, **St. Lawrence**, 28 Jan

This Great Gray Owl submission came from St. Lawrence County, somewhat near where the species was photographed during the same winter. Unfortunately, there were no photographs submitted with this report and there was virtually no description provided, other than that the bird was large. The observers at first thought it was a Great Horned Owl but after looking it up in bird books, decided that it was this species. Although this is a distinctive species and this bird was seen during a winter when multiple Great Gray Owls were found in northern New York, without photos or even a description, the Committee had no option but to not accept the record.

Vermilion Flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*)

2017-32-A One, Pawling, **Dutchess**, 7 Aug

This bird was seen while hiking in a forest in Dutchess County during August. In researching afterwards the observer could not find any similar species of birds that are regular in New York State. Although the plumage pattern described was not at odds for a male of this species, the size and shape of the bird were not provided. In addition the forest habitat would not be typical for the species. Several Committee members concluded that the observer likely saw a male Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*).

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*)

2017-21-A One, Poughquag, **Dutchess**, 10 May

This was a report of an entirely blue bird that appeared at the observer's thistle (niger) feeder for a couple of minutes during May. The observer was familiar with Eastern Bluebird (*S. sialis*) and she indicated that this bird was slender in comparison but did not indicate the bird's relative size or its shape. A Mountain Bluebird would be unlikely to visit a niger feeder and Committee members believed that this was probably an Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*).

Short-billed Gull and Common Gull

Recently, the American Ornithological Society (AOS) voted to split the Mew Gull, *Larus canus* (which formerly included subspecies *canus*, *heinei*, *kamtschatshensis*, and *brachyrhynchus*) into two species—a monotypic Short-billed Gull, *L. brachyrhynchus* and a polytypic Common Gull, *L. canus*, comprising the remaining three taxa (Chesser *et al.* 2021). Short-billed Gull breeds and winters in North America, whereas Common Gull breeds and winters in Europe and Asia. Both occur somewhat regularly in eastern North America and had occurred several times in New York before they were recognized as a separate species. Even before the split, NYSARC desired a better picture of the ratio of occurrence of the two forms (then subspecies), and decided to look at all previously accepted records of Mew Gull to see which, if any, could be identified to subspecies. While subspecies normally present significant identification challenges, the taxa in question are relatively well differentiated, and NYSARC's original reviews of several Mew Gull records had already been resolved to the subspecies level. The re-review thus focused on a set of eight records originally accepted as Mew Gulls, but not to subspecies, and was completed in 2019. Of these, six were accepted at the subspecies level, two involving *L. c. canus* and four involving *L. c. brachyrhynchus*. Following the split, the former two are now acceptable as Common Gull, and the latter four as Short-billed Gull. Of the three subspecies of Common Gull, the nominate race is, by far, the most likely to occur in the state but there are a few records of *L. c. kamtschatshensis* in the northeastern US and Canada (eBird Oct 2021), although not in New York. The other subspecies, *L. c. heinei*, is very similar to the nominate race, and there are no records in North America accepted in eBird as of Oct 2021.

Common Gull (*Larus canus*)

1992-30-A, one Robert Moses State Park, **St. Lawrence**, 27, 29 Dec 1992 (David Sibley)
1996-81-A/B, one Lewiston, **Niagara**, 17 Nov 1996 (Robert Curry, Richard Knapton)

Short-billed Gull (*Larus brachyrhynchus*)

1986-27-A, one Robert Moses State Park, **St. Lawrence**, 4, 5 Oct 1986 (Ian Jones)
1992-56-A/B, one Lewiston, **Niagara**, 29 Nov, 4 Dec 1992 (Alan Wormington, Richard Knapton)
1996-68-A, one Niagara Falls, **Niagara**, 10 Nov 1996 (Sharon Skelly, Brian Mongi)
1997-64-A, one Jamestown, **Chautauqua**, 21 Dec 1997 (Robert Sundell)

Common/Short-billed Gull (*Larus canus/brachyrhynchus*)

2008-64-A, one Lewiston, **Niagara**, 6 Dec 2008 (Willie D'Anna)
2009-4-A/B, one, Olcott, **Niagara**, 22 Feb 2009 (Jim Pawlicki, Willie D'Anna)
For both of these records, the observers attempted to make a subspecific identification but viewing conditions prevented a definitive conclusion.

CONTRIBUTORS

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JANUARY WATERFOWL COUNT 2021

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More than 353 volunteers went into the field 16-26 January 2021 and conducted the New York State Ornithological Association's January Waterfowl Count. The volunteers logged 1,098.67 party-hours and counted 397,429 waterfowl. The methodology of the count is described by Swift (January waterfowl counts, 2005-2007, and some observations on long-term trends. *The Kingbird* 57:198-213; 2007).

Daily high temperatures in January leading up to and through the count period were generally above freezing throughout the state, but most lows were below freezing. In Islip, low temperatures stayed above 20° F. In Plattsburgh, low temperatures during the count period were often in the single digits. Consequently, moving water was generally open and still water was frozen in most of the state. There was virtually no snow in January anywhere in the state except some trace amounts in Buffalo.

RESULTS

In this summary, I will compare the 2021 numbers with the average annual numbers from the decade, 2001-2010. The total number of waterfowl counted this year, 397,429, was 13,723 (4%) more than the average for the 2001-2010 decade. Canada Geese, Snow Geese, and Tundra Swans compensated for the lower numbers of dabbling ducks, diving ducks, and all other waterfowl.

Some species had higher counts than the 2001-2010 decade average: Greater White-fronted Goose, Canada Goose, Snow Goose, Mute Swan, Tundra Swan, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Common Eider, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck, and Double-crested Cormorant. The counts of 5,487 Ring-necked Ducks and 3,335 Hooded Mergansers were the highest counts ever. Both are less hardy species that would have benefited from the warmer than normal conditions. The count of 6,386 American Black Ducks was the lowest ever.

LONG-TERM TRENDS

We have been watching for many years the long-term trend of increasing numbers of Tundra Swans wintering in New York State, the number peaking at 4,065 in 2016. In 2021, the count was 2,186, the highest since the 2016 peak.

By comparing the averages for the periods 1973-2000, 2001-2010, and 2013-2021 possible long-term trends in New York State's winter waterfowl populations can be identified. Possible long-term increases can thus be seen for Snow Goose,

Brant, Trumpeter Swan, Tundra Swan, Wood Duck, Gadwall, Eurasian Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Common Eider, Harlequin Duck, Long-tailed Duck, Hooded Merganser, and Red-breasted Merganser. Long-term decreases may be happening to American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, scaup (sp.), White-winged Scoter, Common Merganser, and Great Cormorant.

FUTURE COUNTS

You can help with the 2022 count by contacting your Regional compiler. Compiler contact information is available online at:

<http://nybirds.org/ProjWaterfowl.htm>

For planning purposes, the January Waterfowl Count is conducted in a period that begins the Saturday before Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (the third Monday in January). The next two count periods will be: 15-23 January 2022 (target date Sunday, January 16); and 14-22 January 2023 (target date Sunday, January 17).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2021 January Waterfowl Count. The many dedicated field observers volunteered many hours in the field. Regional and local compilers and coordinators deserve special thanks for making sure that the state had good coverage and for compiling the data in a timely manner. The Regional compilers, this year, were:

Region	Compiler	Region	Compiler
1	Debbie Suggs	6	Jeff Bolsinger
2	Robert Spahn	7	Gary Lee
3	Thomas Bell	8	Bryan Swift
4	Gail Kirch	9	Bill Ostrander
5	Bill Purcell	10	Clifford Hagen



Table 1. Regional totals for the 2021 January Waterfowl Count.

Species/Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Snow Goose	0	0	24,155	0	0	1	27	2	5	707	24,897
Ross's Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gr. White-fr. Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	132	14,492	14,624
Cackling Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	6	10
Canada Goose	21,405	27,540	31,413	4,090	10,778	6,958	574	5,999	30,361	48,871	187,989
Mute Swan	14	557	21	0	90	79	0	2	369	940	2,072
Trumpeter Swan	0	10	6	0	17	0	0	0	0	2	35
Tundra Swan	75	66	1,623	0	264	158	0	0	0	0	2,186
swan species	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Wood Duck	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	11	31	45
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	1	16	2	0	0	0	0	0	69	798	886
Gadwall	65	38	194	4	16	11	0	0	197	1,271	1,796
Eurasian Wigeon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Am. Wigeon	2	1	135	2	5	0	0	0	60	356	561
Mallard	2,593	3,051	4,309	1,485	2,239	2,091	882	1,316	4,805	6,599	29,370
Am. Black Duck	92	423	1,011	223	97	245	144	110	851	3,190	6,386
Mallard X Black Duck	2	7	4	0	1	2	0	0	6	42	64
Northern Pintail	1	4	43	0	2	0	0	2	4	35	91
Green-winged Teal	2	0	9	4	0	0	0	0	7	187	209
Canvasback	5,653	20	947	0	1	1	0	0	3	511	7,136
Redhead	453	13,261	20,570	0	1,509	1,001	0	0	0	24	36,818
Ring-necked Duck	17	1,031	2,773	54	33	10	1	2	1,176	390	5,487
Tufted Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Greater Scaup	4,609	322	1,334	0	95	1,305	232	9	258	7,133	15,297

Species/Region	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
Lesser Scaup	20	71	11	0	100	2	310	0	26	2,297	2,837
scaup species	0	42	27	0	0	9	930	1	11	328	1,348
King Eider	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	6
Common Eider	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,628	1,628
Harlequin Duck	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4
Surf Scoter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	530	532
White-winged Scoter	251	93	8	0	9	18	0	0	2	1,891	2,272
Black Scoter	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	857	859
scoter species	0	0	58	0	0	0	0	0	0	669	727
Long-tailed Duck	494	1,217	16	0	488	903	2	1	147	2,116	5,384
Bufflehead	461	55	173	47	144	123	54	1	830	4,199	6,087
Com. Goldeneye	2,376	1,528	1,384	187	1,041	1,621	1,582	497	248	752	11,216
Barrow's Goldeneye	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	3
Hooded Merganser	99	103	207	408	74	8	54	62	1,101	1,219	3,335
Com. Merganser	532	118	611	777	2,672	1,446	191	707	2,656	14	9,724
Red-br. Merganser	745	4,419	249	1	867	341	2	0	93	1,458	8,175
Ruddy Duck	9	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	35	4,605	4,654
Pied-billed Grebe	2	4	2	0	2	0	0	0	13	20	43
Horned Grebe	10	1	3	0	0	0	3	0	2	129	148
Red-necked Grebe	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	6
Eared Grebe	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Am. Coot	6	50	386	35	31	0	0	0	218	140	866
Red-throated Loon	60	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	193	266
Common Loon	1	5	7	0	2	5	8	0	25	284	337
Dbl.-cr. Cormorant	10	33	7	0	7	5	0	0	0	271	333
Great Cormorant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75	70	145
Other/Unidentified	201	0	0	0	3	55	0	0	149	100	508
TOTALS	40,264	54,094	91,704	7,317	20,590	16,401	4,999	8,712	43,963	109,385	397,429

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

Fishing Phoebes in East Hampton, NY

One of the unexpected and happier benefits of a year spent working from home in East Hampton was the opportunity to observe some of our rarer winter birds on a regular basis. In addition to a Rufous Hummingbird, which appeared at our feeders in early December 2020 and remained until the end of January 2021, we had a pair of Baltimore Orioles which lingered through the winter, taking advantage of the hummingbird feeders when other food supplies dwindled. Our biggest surprise, however, was an intrepid Eastern Phoebe, which also remained well-fed through the winter by teaching itself how to fish!

The bird was observed initially at the inlet of Georgica Cove where there is a parking area and a large drainage pipe that moves storm runoff from Cove Hollow Road into the pond. This somewhat constant flow of fresh water remains a feature of the Cove year round, and provides an active habitat for an abundance of very small fish (possibly rainwater killifish/mummichogs).

We had been watching the overwintering phoebe since mid-February, perching in a tree or on a branch above the Cove. It would fly in close to the muddy water near the drainage pipe, usually sitting on a phragmite or similar reedy plant, behavior that seemed appropriate for catching insects near the pond; but in February, of course, there were no insects. Observing our photos in early March, we were able to detect fish in the beak, which were promptly swallowed (photo, p. 156). We then followed the bird more closely over several days (and with other observers) and could see that it dipped into the muddy water (faster than we were able to catch in a photo), grab a fish and then return to the tree branch to eat it. The bird did not actually dive (as nearby kingfishers do) and of course did not snatch any fish in the air, as the fish don't emerge from the water.

The phoebe was first reported in eBird on 12 January. Though not observed by these authors, on 31 January, two Eastern Phoebes were seen together and reports of two appeared again on 20 and 21 February. One observer noted that both were fishing, though he never saw them doing it simultaneously. There were subsequent reports of one individual through 15 March.

A search of the literature reveals only two reports of this species catching fish, both in the Chicago area (Jung 1926: The season. Chicago region. *Bird-Lore* 28: 63-64; Binford 1957: Eastern Phoebes fishing. *Auk* 74: 264-265). The last reported evidence of an Eastern Phoebe fishing was in 1956, so you can imagine that there was quite a bit of excitement among the evolutionary biologists and ornithologists who began following the East Hampton birds. Over a few weeks we continued to observe one of the birds fishing quite successfully. We assume that by late March it resumed its regular diet of insects.

Jane and Alfred Ross, East Hampton, New York.

Spotted Towhees in New York State

A female Spotted Towhee at Baldwin Harbor Park, Nassau County, NY 2 Jan-26 Feb 2021 was the ninth record for NYS (but only the second since 1990) and the fourth for Long Island. Found during the Southern Nassau County CBC by compilers Patricia Lindsay and Shai Mitra (co-author of this note), this was, remarkably, *not* the first for that count: New York's first record was found by Robert H. Grant while scouting for this venerable CBC in late December 1956 and seen again on count day and later (but see below). Late fall 2020 to early spring 2021 was particularly good for Spotted Towhees in the Northeast, accounting for two in Ontario (of 34 total: Riley *et al.* 2021), one in Massachusetts (of 6 total), and Rhode Island's first, pending review (eBird 2021).

The Baldwin Spotted Towhee remained for more than a month (see photo, p. 156), presenting many birders their first opportunity to see this species in New York, in part because the last long-staying bird occurred in 1985, and in part because this taxon was considered "only a subspecies" at that time (in fact, from 1957 until 1995). While reviewing the prior records, we discovered several errors, inconsistencies, and gaps in the various published and online accounts, and we endeavored to collect and preserve the details as accurately as possible, in consultation with some of the original finders and observers. Our sources include the original *Kingbird* and *Field Notes/American Birds/North American Birds* accounts, Post (1965), Buckley (1998), species comments in eBird, and communication with Richard Guthrie, Dominic Sherony, and Jeanne Skelly. In cases of discrepancies and differences in level of detail among sources, we have depended on first-hand testimony and original reports over summaries.

One of these records concerns me (DJF) personally. As a 15-year-old birder in November 1957, I found and identified a female Spotted Towhee in a utility area of the Bronx Zoo. I reported it to Ted Peszell and other adult birders who frequented Bronx Park and confirmed the identification. Reports of rarities spread only by personal contact at that time, before the Internet and even an RBA telephone line, and so meetings of the Linnaean Society of New York usually began with reports of interesting sightings.

I don't recall whether Peszell or Charles Young reported the towhee at the meeting, but when the president asked for details, the vividly memorable answer came instead from the back of the room: "It *is* a Spotted Towhee, and I have it right here!" Paul Buckley had obtained permission to certify this record by collecting (i.e., shooting) the bird, which now resides in the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH 707778). In his entry on this species in *Bull's Birds of New York State* (ed. E. Levine, 1998), Paul mistakenly attributed the discovery to Ted Peszell. His account reveals that he collected not only this bird, the second New York State record, but also the first, Grant's Jones Beach bird!

That specimen, also an immature female, is now at the New York State Museum in Albany (NYSM 19019). Although the sacrifice of this and the Bronx Zoo bird seems quite alien to present-day sensibilities, the preservation of the

specimens allowed for critical subspecific determination at a time when photographing wild birds was immensely more difficult than it is today. Buckley (1959) identified these specimens, and another from New Jersey, as the subspecies *arcticus*, which close study and digital photography continue to confirm as the source of most or all Northeastern records, including this year's bird at Baldwin.

Records of Spotted Towhees in New York State

Dates	Site	Observers	Sex	Kingbird
29 Dec ¹ 1956- 16 Feb 1957	Jones Beach SP, Nassau	Robert H. Grant	F	7: 36 15: 203
30 Nov– 23 Dec 1957	Bronx Zoo, Bronx	Douglas Futuyma	F	15: 203 ²
3 Dec 1964- 1 Feb 1965 ³	Bellport, Suffolk	Mrs. H Wegner, Dennis Puleston	M	15: 131 15: 203
“about 3 wks” Feb 1976	Chili, Monroe	Robert Coffee	M	26: 101-103
28 Nov 1982	Maspeth, Queens	Polgars, fide T. H. Davis	M	33: 80
late Dec 1984- Feb 1985	Greenville, Greene	Chris Ketcham, Richard Guthrie	M	35: 146
22 Dec 1990	ca. Conesus L Marine P, Livingston	Dominic Sherony, Jeanne Skelly	M	41: 103-107
17 Nov 2019	Tifft Nature Pres, Erie	Brad Felton	M	70: 22
2 Jan- 26 Feb 2021	Baldwin Harbor P, Nassau	Patricia Lindsay, Shaibal Mitra	F	this issue

¹ Post (1965) and Buckley (1998) give the date of discovery as 28 Dec.

² record not published in Region 10 Regional report but treated by Post (1965) and Buckley (1998).

³ Puleston reported that Mrs. Wegner had been seeing the bird for about three weeks previous to 3 Dec, when Puleston learned of it, and that it was last seen 24 Jan 1965 (Post 1965).

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PATCH BIRDING A CASE FOR PATCH BIRDING

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My embrace of patch birding came late in my birding run. eBird advocated for this type of birding years ago, but I never learned to love it. As a newer birder it was enough to try and learn all the different species, their habits, and songs. The life checklist didn't seem large enough. Of course, many birds were elusive and their habitats a mystery. Consequently, I would chase the more unusual species wherever they were reported adding to the growing life list and gaining valuable experience with locally rare birds.

Soon, with a growing list of birds and birder friends under my belt, casual competition was the order of the day. The greater birding community encouraged this competition with the eBird Top 100, greatest number of checklists, our own local "David Cup", (largest number of species in the Cayuga Lake Basin per year). What birder/film fan can forget 2011's *The Big Year* immortalizing the yearlong chase for fame and glory?

At some point the change in my birding started, subtly. The rarer species became more of a quest for habitats that might lead to my own finds of good birds instead of burning fuel to chase others' discoveries. One migrant Cape May Warbler singing from a spruce tree, or a Red Crossbill, was greater satisfaction than several birds reported by others. Soon dozens of weekly eBird locations started to dwindle to a few selective migrant traps and local breeding locations. The drive to make my hundreds of eBird lists richer for science overtook the listing drive.

When the great pandemic hit, driving all over God's creation to see birds with its environmental cost seemed out of order. My local patch with its mix of water, woods, and shrubs provided a relaxing refuge from masks, crowds, and stress. Daily trips over the months and in any weather gave a glimpse into a world slowly in tune. Migrant birds appeared and were gone. Local birds sang, bred, raised families, and moved on. Raptors soared and kettled. Mammals grew used to seeing me. My fuel bill plummeted along with my driving time.

The most unexpected change was that the year list did not dwindle. One migrant Lincoln's Sparrow or Swainson's Thrush returned more happiness than I formally received from a greater number of previous examples. Arrival and departure dates started to make sense. How birds use their habitats and their preferences started to become clearer. I gained a greater sense of the carrying capacity of the habitat for numbers of individual birds. The birding became more intuitive with a sense of the natural order in this slice of the world. I could almost fill out a bird list before starting with abundance. A new bird or lingering bird was suddenly like a beacon in the habitat, the "look at me" sign hard to miss. I gained a feel for the breadth of migration. On those days when migrants are reported in

several areas, I can usually be sure that my patch will hold some copies of the new visitors.

I think as time goes on and climate change continues to impact every place, the value of these specific repeated bird lists will grow. eBird's ability to chart abundance, range, frequency, along with migration trends will become more refined. We can be a part of this effort by making regular visits to our patch. Yard list aficionados can adopt a patch to supplement their backyard.

Now that the pandemic is entering a new phase, with trips and groups returning, my desire to go back to usual, pre-pandemic, listing is gone. I find myself missing my patch with its shrubs, trees, and flowing water, wondering if there is something new today. The Mallards have young swimming in a line, the Veeries and Baltimore Orioles are now silent—but are they just invisible or have they moved on like the Red-winged Blackbirds?

I still chase the true rarities, lately Roseate Spoonbill and Wood Stork, but patch birding with 200+ checklists a year is here to stay. Listing will always be fun, and I can now add a more focused approach to my year birding. I encourage all birders to adopt a location to make your own. The benefits are real.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON—WINTER 2020-21

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The mild weather of the fall continued into December and January. Every Region in the state enjoyed above average temperatures, and winter didn't really move into most areas until February. Early February saw a couple of significant snowfalls in scattered parts of the state.

The mild temperatures again favored "half-hardy" landbirds, and there were many individuals who lingered on from the autumn season. Additionally, open water provided feeding and sheltering locations for waterfowl and snow-free fields provided grazing areas for geese.

Region 1 reported a high count of 74 Cackling Geese at one location in Orleans County, mentioned as being a record high for the Region, but I would be surprised if there were many (or any) higher counts statewide. This species did put in a good showing elsewhere, with birds reported from seven Regions, and there were many other good counts. Greater White-fronted Goose was also widespread, with a high count of eight in Region 3. In Region 9, a Barnacle Goose with four hybrid young were continuing birds from the fall season, while a bird photographed in Region 3 was identified as a Barnacle X Cackling Goose hybrid. Where do the breeding ranges of these species overlap outside of captivity? Two

Regions hosted Pink-footed Geese this winter, one in Suffolk in Region 10, where almost regular now, and one in Region 5 which provided a first Hamilton County record.

Trumpeter and Tundra Swans were widely reported from all five westernmost Regions. A count of 75,000 Snow Geese in Region 7 far outnumbered tallies anywhere else. Comments about duck numbers ran from “typical” to “excellent”, but Region 2 editor Robert Spahn noted that 3/4s of their high waterfowl count consisted of Canada Goose and Redhead! Both Wood Ducks and Blue-winged Teal lingered in multiple upstate Regions. Regions 3 and 7 both recorded Tufted Duck. King Eiders were surprisingly well-represented this winter, with reports from five Regions and as many as 20 individuals from Region 10 alone. Barrow’s Goldeneye was also conspicuous this season, with reports from six Regions. Five in Region 6, nine at one location in Region 7, and at least 10 scattered across Region 10 were great counts.

Two reports of Spruce Grouse from Massawepie Mire in Region 6 were the only reports for the state. Three *selasphorous* hummingbirds seems like a pretty typical statewide number these days, and a White-winged Dove in Chautauqua provided a fourth record for Region 1.

Sandhill Cranes were found in five Regions, with a max count of 275 in the Region 3 section of the Montezuma NWR. Among the shorebirds, Killdeer was mentioned favorably by several Regional editors—for being present in good numbers, for overwintering birds, and for early return dates. Surprises included Spotted Sandpiper in Region 6 on 11 December and a Short-billed Dowitcher photographed in Region 10 on 5 December. Greater Yellowlegs lingered to early December in Region 3.

Two Razorbills at the Edith G. Read Sanctuary in Region 9 were surprising, especially for a year with an unremarkable coastal flight. Both murres were recorded in small numbers, but it was Dovekies that entertained many Region 10 birders this winter, putting on a better show than they have for some years. A decent variety of gulls was reported statewide, with the best being a Slaty-backed which drifted back and forth across the Canadian border with Region 1 through December and January. Region 1 also hosted a Sabine’s—a holdover from the fall. Nine Regions reported Iceland Gull, while eight reported Glaucous and Lesser Black-backed. Three different Mew Gulls (as of this writing, now recognized as two full species, Common, *Larus camus*, and Short-billed, *Larus brachyrhynchus*), were scattered around Region 10. Black Skimmers lingering at two Region 10 locations into January were extremely late.

A Great Cormorant was quite a rarity in Region 6, but a first record for Anhinga in Region 2 was even more shocking, especially for the date—mid-December. A Brown Pelican seen along the Hudson River in northern Manhattan (Region 10) was probably the same one seen on the same date at Yonkers in Region 9. Tricolored and Green Heron were both recorded in Region 10 into January.

Golden Eagles were reported from seven Regions, with John Haas in Region 9 noting “widespread reports”. A number of irruptive species seem to have decided that this fall and winter would be the year to put on a show, and Rough-legged Hawk and Snowy Owls both joined the party. They were widely reported and generally in good numbers. A western race *calurus* Red-tailed Hawk was photographed in Region 2, and the always exciting Gyrfalcon was reported in two Regions. By far the most spectacular raptor record statewide was the wonderful Ferruginous Hawk which lingered for more than a month in the Black Dirt farmland of Region 9. This first state record was enjoyed by many birders (is it safe to say many hundreds?) during its stay.

Back to owls for a minute, Barred, Short-eared, and Eastern Screech-Owls were all mentioned by several Regional editors as being present in decent numbers, with high counts of Short-eared at 25 and 24 in Regions 6 and 8, respectively, 62 Screech-Owls on the Rochester CBC in Region 2, and Barred Owl in Region 9 (“widespread reports throughout”) and Region 4 (“many reports”).

A Say’s Phoebe in Region 7 was an excellent find, but a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher banded at Braddock Bay in Region 2 is a record late date for the state. Also in Region 2, a Swainson’s Thrush was reported on 20 December—a Regional late record. Downstate, Region 10 logged Wood Thrush, Veery and Varied Thrush, the latter being the least surprising of the three.

Some open ground birds were recorded in excellent numbers. Horned Lark flocks were large and widespread, with maximum counts in Region 8 (700 at Copake) and Region 10 (500 at Bridgehampton). Likewise, Snow Buntings were plentiful after several down years. Counts of around 1,000 were reported from Regions 1, 2, 3, and 8, with many in the 100s elsewhere.

Bob Yunick in Region 8 reported that a large Black-capped Chickadee irruption, which started back in late summer, continued to build through December and into January, and was accompanied by a smaller influx of Red-breasted Nuthatches and Tufted Titmice. Bob’s observations, supported by banding data and seed consumption figures, are always interesting and worth a look.

As mentioned up top, the continuing mild weather encouraged many half-hardy landbirds to linger throughout the state. Some of those not previously mentioned included widespread Marsh Wrens, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, a variety of sparrows and Eastern Towhee. Four Regions reported Rose-breasted Grosbeak, including some multiples! Other rarities worth mentioning include the Summer Tanager photographed at a feeder in Region 2, male Painted Buntings in Regions 9 and 10, record late Blackburnian and Tennessee Warblers in Region 1, and a Blue-winged Warbler photographed in Region 3. A flock of 60 Rusty Blackbirds in mid-January in Region 8 and another count of 49 in Region 10 are probably related to mild fall and winter weather.

Other great sparrow finds included LeConte's in Regions 9 and 10, two "Gambel's" White-crowned Sparrows photographed in Region 2, and two "Ipswich" Savannah Sparrows in Region 9. Ipswich is a bird that is seldom found more than a few hundred yards from the coast.

By far the best of this lot, though, was the Spotted Towhee found on the Southern Nassau CBC in Region 10 by Pat Lindsay and Shai Mitra. This bird lingered through the end of February, and although it stayed within the confines of a relatively small brushy patch, it remained incredibly difficult to find! Doug Futuyma's comments regarding this towhee and especially his story of his earlier Spotted Towhee sighting (in 1957!) provide a fascinating comparison of how birding was done then and now, although it may not be a tale for the faint hearted (p. 126; ph. p. 156)!

The finch irruption of the fall season continued into winter, albeit with smaller numbers for some species like Pine Siskin. That being said, siskins were recorded in all ten Regions, as were both crossbills and Common Redpoll. In fact, in most Regions the winter finch flight turned into The Redpoll Show, with flocks in the hundreds throughout the state and a couple of reports of flocks in the thousands in Regions 3 and 7. Incredibly, Hoaries were recorded in nine Regions, with multiple reports everywhere. Region 7 reports an "astonishing season" and "tremendous numbers" of Common Redpolls as well as *rostrata* Commons and *hornemanni* Hoaries. As Regional Editor Bill Krueger comments, "To put it in technical terms redpolls of all types were all over the place."

This winter season and the fall before it have really been exceptional for irruptive, or out of season, or just rare, birds. Once again, there were several real contenders for Bird of the Season. However, I think the clear choice for this season is the Ferruginous Hawk, a large, showy, spectacular bird that stayed for a prolonged period and provided great views to many admiring birders. On top of that, the Ferruginous Hawk has since been accepted as a first state record, one of just a handful of records for eastern North America (Willie D'Anna, pers. comm.).

Thanks for reading and be sure to have a look at the Regional reports. There's much more there that didn't get covered here, so please go and check out the details.



REGIONAL REPORTS—WINTER 2020-21

Much of the data in these Regional reports was sourced from eBird:
eBird Basic Dataset. Version: EBD_relFeb-2021. Cornell Lab of Ornithology,
Ithaca, New York. Feb 2021.

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REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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The winter season started off relatively mild in December and January with seasonably cold temperatures eventually settling in during February. December 2020 was mostly mild with a heavy snow event on the 26th, which dropped 18.4". The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 33.5° F, 3.4° above normal, with 4.96" of precipitation, 1.07" above average. Snowfall totaled 33.0", 5.6" above normal. The mild weather continued in January. The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 29.4°, 4.5° above average. Precipitation was low with just 1.85", 1.33" below average and 10.2" of snowfall, 15.1" below normal. February brought colder temperatures, with four days dipping into single digits. The average temperature was 24.7°, 1.6° below normal. Rainfall was 2.06", 0.43" below normal and snowfall was 27.5", 10.2" above normal.

The mild winter weather in December and January resulted in waterfowl lingering longer than normal within the Region, taking advantage of the yet unfrozen ponds and shorelines. A new Regional winter maximum of 74 Cackling Geese was set, at the surprising date of 6 January, and this species put on a good showing in numerous counties throughout the winter season. Many of the Cackling Geese sighted in February, as well as numerous Greater White-fronted Geese, were likely "spring" arrivals. Greater White-fronted Geese have now made a good showing for three straight years in February. Two King Eiders continued into early December from the fall season along the Niagara River in Buffalo and an additional eider was found in mid-January at Fort Niagara SP. A reliable Harlequin Duck continued throughout December and January at its usual location at Niagara Falls SP. There were few reports of single Surf and Black Scoters during the season, while White-winged Scoters were numerous, with a healthy county of 340 at Fort Niagara SP in January. Fort Niagara SP also produced a beautiful drake Barrow's Goldeneye found by Joel Strong in February

that lingered in the area for at least five days. An Eared Grebe found by Gale VerHague at Dunkirk Harbor rounds out the waterfowl highlights for the winter season. This bird was observed over a five-day window, allowing numerous birders to enjoy this Regional rarity at fairly close range.

The fourth Regional record of **White-winged Dove** graced Carol Hardenburg's Portland yard from 4-13 December and was enjoyed by many. Astonishingly, this same yard also hosted White-winged Dove two previous times!

In the shorebird arena, Killdeer were reported in all three winter months and up to four Purple Sandpipers were observed at Buffalo Harbor throughout the winter, likely representing rare overwintering birds.

Gulls were plentiful along the Niagara River and the lakeshore, including the continuing Sabine's Gull from late November in Buffalo. Up to 750 Bonaparte's Gulls were counted along the Niagara River in Lewiston as well as up to five Little Gulls at the same location. Iceland Gulls made a nice showing, including a high count of 14 at Devil's Hole SP on the Niagara River. Glaucous Gulls were much less common with a high count of just two. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were regular at Niagara Falls SP, with up to 12 reported. Though still considered a great rarity for the Region, **Slaty-backed Gull** has recently come to be recorded nearly annually. First reported across the border in Canada on 19 December, presumably this same bird eventually made its way to Niagara Falls SP and was found by Chris Rockwell on 22 December. This on again-off again bird was last reported for the winter on 19 January.

Red-throated Loons were reported throughout the winter on Lake Ontario, with a large count of 50 by Peter Yoerg at Fort Niagara SP on 24 January. Black and Turkey Vultures continued at their known Lewiston roost site with as many as 8 and 35 reported, respectively. A Turkey Vulture was also reported in Chautauqua County on 1 January, a rare winter occurrence outside of the Niagara Gorge area.

Winter raptors were fairly abundant this season with numerous Rough-legged Hawk reports throughout the Region and an impressive count of 10 Northern Harriers at John White WMA on 17 January by Bruce Hoover. Conewango produced impressive counts of Short-eared Owls with up to 14 on 7 December, the highest count in recent years. Short-eared Owls were also found in more locations than regularly. There were eight Snowy Owl reports in December and just two January and three February reports. A rare Barn Owl was photographed on 12 January at the same location as the November pair in Fredonia. Just one Long-eared Owl was reported, and three Northern Saw-whet Owls were documented during the winter season. Surprisingly, there were no Red-headed Woodpecker reports, despite a few of this species typically overwintering in the Region in past years. The mild start to winter increased the frequency of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker reports, with several reported each month for perhaps the best winter season showing to date.

Northern Shrike was reported in good numbers throughout the winter. Small numbers of Fish Crow were found with regularity in the crow roost at Forest Lawn Cemetery and other credible reports came from elsewhere in Buffalo, consistent with recent winters. Common Raven is no longer an unusual find anywhere in the Region.

It was a good winter season for field bird sightings, especially in the late January and early February period. Maxima of 275 Horned Larks, 110 Lapland Longspurs, and 1060 Snow Buntings were recorded. The longspurs count by Willie D'Anna came after a snowy day that pushed many field birds to the roadsides.

The mild winter weather brought more sightings of the "half hardy" species than most winters, while climate and environmental change are influencing the winter ranges of many of the species that follow. Winter Wren was reported from eight locations in December and a few sightings beyond. Marsh Wren was documented from three Southern Tier locations in January, very unusual. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher lingered to at least early December at Beaver Island SP. Ruby-crowned Kinglet is becoming less rare in winter, while three sightings beyond December is still good. Eastern Bluebird is now a regular winter occurrence, while this winter they were even more numerous and widespread. Four Hermit Thrush reports beyond December was impressive. Winter Gray Catbird sightings continue to increase. A Brown Thrasher made a rare winter appearance at Rebecca Bishop's feeders in Cassadaga in February. There were more Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, and Fox Sparrow sightings this winter as well.

Warblers also got in on the mild weather with five species found this winter. Yellow-rumped Warbler is a regular wintering species, best found at Buckhorn Island SP where it overwinters. Shelley Seidman documented a Pine Warbler throughout the winter on the Buffalo waterfront. A Common Yellowthroat in early December is good but not especially rare, while the latest records of Tennessee Warbler and Blackburnian Warbler were surprising. Tony Dvorak photographed the Tennessee Warbler at Tiffit Nature Preserve on 14 December while Dominic Sherony documented a Blackburnian Warbler at Niagara Falls SP, where it was also seen in November.

The finch frenzy documented in the Fall Season report continued into the winter months but with much less sizzle. Some Evening Grosbeaks settled into the highlands of the Southern Tier counties with few seen elsewhere. Common Redpoll was the only irruptive finch species that really stuck around the Region in winter. While there were some counts in the hundreds, the redpolls were not widespread. Unlike most big redpoll irruption years when they hit most birders' feeders at some point in the winter, sightings this winter were more often in weedy fields. There were four Hoary Redpoll reports as they were picked out among the more numerous Common Redpolls. Crossbills were the stars of the fall finch irruption, but it did not last, and they did not linger, with only two reports each for Red Crossbill and White-winged Crossbill. Some Pine Siskins were around

this winter, but they were not widespread; the maxima of 81 is a little deceiving, since there were only a few other reports in double digits.

Blackbirds returned in good numbers in late February. Eastern Meadowlarks were found at three locations in the winter season, including one photographed at a Cambria feeder 17 February. It is uncertain if this was an overwintering bird or an early arrival looking for nourishment.

Lastly, an “Oregon” Junco was photographed by Bethany Morrow at her feeders in Lockport in February.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AISP – Allegany SP, CATT; **BeSP** – Beaver I SP, ERIE; **Bond L CP** – Bond L CP, NIAG; **BufH** – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; **BuSP** – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; **BWWTP** – Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, GENE; **ChauL** – Chautauqua L, CHAU; **CSWMA** – Conewango Swamp WMA, CATT; **DH** – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; **DHSP** – Devil’s Hole SP, NIAG; **EvSP** – Evangola SP, ERIE; **FMCS** – Four Mile Creek SP, NIAG; **FNSP** – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; **GHSP** – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; **HBWMA** – Hanging Bog WMA, ALLE; **INWR** – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; **JWWMA** – John White WMA, GENE; **Krull CP** – Krull CP NIAG; **LBSP** – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; **NF** – Niagara Falls, NIAG; **NFSP** – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; **NR** – Niagara R; **PB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **RWNP** – Reinstein Woods Nature Pres, ERIE; **Tift NP** – Tift Nature Pres, ERIE; **WTSP** – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: max 3 Albion ORLE 8 Dec; 3 other Dec reports, four Jan reports, 1 each.
Greater White-fronted Goose: WTSP, Somerset NIAG 1 Jan; Bond L CP NIAG 12 Jan; Wilson NIAG, DH 14 Jan; Hamburg ERIE 16 Jan; Tonawanda NR ERIE 25 Jan, 1, 4, Feb; good showing.

Cackling Goose: 2 Dayton CATT 6, 14 Dec; 2 Oakfield GENE 6, 28 Dec; 4 Ridgeway ORLE 28 Dec; 10, 74 Lyndonville ORLE 29 Dec, 6 Jan (AH, WD!), Reg winter maxima; 7 Sheridan CHAU 8 Jan; 4 Wilson NIAG 27 Jan; Fredonia CHAU 28 Feb.
Canada Goose: max 2600 Lyndonville ORLE 6 Jan.

Mute Swan: max 5, 6 PB 5 Dec, 27 Jan; 4 other Dec reports 1 each; 3 other Jan reports 2 each; Celoron ChauL 2 Feb; 5 Olcott NIAG 14 Feb; 4 Waterport ORLE 28 Feb.

Trumpeter Swan: max 7 INWR 4 Dec; 1, 2 Dayton CATT 20, 21 Dec, rare for county.

Tundra Swan: 117 Grand Island NR 16 Dec; 325 NF 27 Dec; 100 Chautauqua ChauL 28 Dec; 26 Prendergast Point ChauL 6 Jan; max 310, 423 BeSP 29 Jan, 20 Feb.

Wood Duck: five Dec reports; Unity I NR 1 Jan; Orchard Park ERIE 2 Jan; arr Silver Creek CHAU 23 Feb; BuSP 27 Feb.

Northern Shoveler: 105, 68, 28 BWWT 5, 14 Dec, 8 Jan; 25, 2 Oakfield ORLE 31 Dec, 2 Jan INWR 16 Jan; arr 3 Jamestown CHAU 25 Feb.

Gadwall: max 162. 10 Tift NP 1 Dec. 1 Jan; 22 INWR 6 Dec; 11, 25 NFSP 27 Dec, 25 Jan; 15 Chautauqua ChauL 17 Jan; 25 BuSP 23 Jan; arr 3 Fredonia CHAU 13 Feb.

American Wigeon: 11 NFSP 6 Dec; 3 Cuba L ALLE 12 Dec; 4 GHSP 2 Jan; arr FNSP 21 Feb; 11 DH 27 Feb.

Mallard: max 550 INWR 7 Dec; max 550 Oakfield ORLE 31 Dec.

American Black Duck: max 50 INWR 8 Dec; 28, 22 Machias CATT 23 Dec, 16 Jan; 22 Oakfield ORLE 31 Dec; 14 Lyndonville ORLE 9 Jan; 12 BuSP 17 Jan; 22 NFSP 14 Feb; 29 Lewiston NIAG 18 Feb.

Northern Pintail: 3 INWR 6 Dec; 4 Middleport NIAG 12 Dec; 3 New Albion CATT 23 Dec; WTSP 16 Jan; Wellsville 17, 24 Jan, 12 Feb; arr 10 BuFH 28 Feb.

Green-winged Teal: max 130 INWR 5 Dec; 7 Cuba L ALLE; 2 East Aurora ERIE 2 Jan; Allegheny Res CATT 10 Jan.

Canvasback: max 7000 NFSP 27 Dec; 3600 NF 2 Jan; 1400 BeSP 13 Feb; 250 DH 25 Feb.

Redhead: max 1000 Ellery ChauL 5 Dec; 400, 200 NF 27 Dec, 10 Jan; 600, 400 BuFH 18 Jan, 12 Feb; 152 DH 19 Jan; 525 Grand Island NR 27 Feb; 210 Celoron ChauL 28 Feb.

Ring-necked Duck: 25 Tift NP 8 Dec; max 49 BuFH 31 Dec; 20 Wheatfield NIAG 1 Jan; 15 Buffalo NR 15 Jan; 6 Barcelona CHAU 23 Jan; 10 BeSP 15 Feb; 10 Celoron ChauL 28 Feb.

Greater Scaup: 200 NF 27 Dec; max 300, 750, 4000 BuFH 28 Dec, 23 Jan, 25 Feb; 92, 250 DH 31 Dec, 27 Feb; 1500 NR 10 Jan.

Lesser Scaup: max 2500 Ellery ChauL 5 Dec; 50 BuFH 11 Jan; 40, 40 DH 18 Jan, 26 Feb; 50 BeSP 23 Jan.

King Eider: 2 Buffalo NR 4 Dec (KR), continuing from fall; FNSP 14 Jan (PY).

Harlequin Duck: FNSP 19, 31 Dec, 2, 9 Jan (WD & BP, PM); regular location.

Surf Scoter: FNSP 27 Dec, 30 Jan, 4 Feb; BuSP 2 Jan; only reports.

White-winged Scoter: max 100, 340 FNSP 9, 30 Jan.

Black Scoter: FNSP 2, 26 Dec; EvSP 13 Dec; LBSP 21 Dec; BuSP 2 Jan; only reports.

Long-tailed Duck: 150, 164, 175 PB 8 Dec, 19 Jan, 6 Feb; 200 BuFH 3 Jan; max 300 Lewiston NR 18 Feb.

Bufflehead: max 2500 Buffalo NR 5 Dec; 175 NFSP 26 Dec; 650 Buffalo NR 3 Jan.

Common Goldeneye: 320 Barcelona CHAU 11 Dec; 540, 900 Buffalo NR 20 Dec, 3 Jan; 825 Grand Island ERIE 17 Jan; 125 Point Chautauqua ChauL 17 Jan; max 1350 BuSP 4 Feb.

Barrow's Goldeneye: FNSP 17-19, 21 Feb (JS! mob), drake; good find.

Hooded Merganser: 61 Tift NP 1 Dec; max 91 Dayton CATT 12 Dec; 75 BeSP 1 Jan; 88 DH 9 Jan.

Common Merganser: 195 Cassadaga 11 Dec; 330 Cuba L ALLE 12 Dec; 200 DH 16 Jan; 150 Buffalo NR 26 Jan; 300 BeSP 17 Feb.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 600, 525 Buffalo NR 5, 20 Dec; 350 BuFH 5 Dec; 297 BeSP 17 Jan.

Ruddy Duck: 71 BWWT 5 Dec; max 252 Ellery ChauL 7 Dec; 2 BeSP 14 Jan; 12 Celoron ChauL 16 Jan; CSWMA 1 Feb (BR); arr 3 Jamestown CHAU, DH, BeSP 28 Feb.

Wild Turkey: max 76 Royalton NIAG 31 Jan (S&TO), good count.

Pied-billed Grebe: BuSP 14, 28 Jan, 4, 7 Feb; BeSP 20 Jan; Barcelona CHAU 23 Jan; arr FNSP 18 Feb; Jamestown CHAU 27 Feb.

Horned Grebe: max 26 DH 7 Dec; 10 FNSP 9 Jan.

Red-necked Grebe: max 11 Wilson NIAG 19 Dec; 9 PB 21 Dec; BuFH 1 Jan; Yates ORLE 1 Jan.

Eared Grebe: DH 14, 16-18 Jan (GV ph!, mob), rare.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: Portland CHAU 4-15 Dec (CH, mob), 4th Reg record.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

American Coot: 4, 6 DH 14 Jan, 28 Feb; max 9 BuFH 31 Jan.

Sandhill Crane: max 21 INWR 4 Dec (PHess); Tonawanda NIAG 20 Dec; INWR 20,

24 Jan, 14 Feb; 2 Randolph CATT 24 Feb (KB).

Killdeer: Belfast ALLE 3 Dec; Buffalo ERIE 5 Jan; arr Machias CATT 24 Feb; max 9 Dayton CATT 27 Feb.

Purple Sandpiper: PB 8 Dec (BC); 4, 3, 3, 3 BuFH 25 Dec, 2, 17 Jan, 25 Feb (PY, mob); apparently overwintered.

Sabine's Gull: Buffalo ERIE 1-5 Dec (MK, mob), continued from late fall.

Bonaparte's Gull: 500, 750 Lewiston NR 16 Jan, 18 Feb; 600 DHSP 22 Jan.

Little Gull: max 5, 4, 3 Lewiston NR 6, 27 Dec, 18 Feb.

Iceland Gull: 7, 8 NFSP 27 Dec, 15 Jan; BuFH 22 Dec; DH 28 Dec; max 14, 14 DHSP 31 Dec, 18 Jan.

"THAYER'S" ICELAND GULL: DHSP 31 Dec, 17, 18, 22 Jan; 1-2 NFSP 2-31 Jan (mob); only locations with reports.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Cuba L ALLE 12 Dec; max 12, 10, 11 NFSP 20 Dec, 4, 18 Jan; BuFH 28 Dec.

SLATY-BACKED GULL: NFSP 22 Dec – 19 Jan (ChR, mob), still rare but increased reports in recent years.

Glaucous Gull: max 1, 2, 2 NFSP 21 Dec, 2 Jan, 4 Feb; BuFH 28 Dec, 4 Feb; DHSP 31 Dec; BeSP 14 Jan.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 50 NFSP 27 Dec.

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: 24 Wilson NIAG 19 Dec; max 50 FNPS 24 Jan (PY); 2 GHSP 8 Feb.

Common Loon: BuSP 27 Dec; 3 FNPS 27 Dec; 4 DH 1 Jan; BuSP 1, 14 Jan; BuFH 6 Jan; Olcott NIAG 15 Feb, only report beyond early Jan.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 12 DH 13 Dec, 20 Jan; 6 BuFH 7 Jan; fewer around this winter.

Black Vulture: 7, 8, 6 Lewiston NIAG 27 Dec, 19 Jan, 18 Feb; regular winter location.

Turkey Vulture: 35, 21 Lewiston NIAG 14 Dec, 30 Jan; regular winter location; Pomfret CHAU 1 Jan (GV), rare for date.

Northern Harrier: max 10 JWWMA 17 Jan (BH).

Bald Eagle: 5 Franklinville CATT 12 Dec; 6 Allegheny Res CATT 13 Dec; 5 Dayton CATT 20 Dec; 5 Hume ALLE 27 Dec; max 7 Leon CATT 3 Jan; 6 Mayville CHAU 10 Jan; 5 Caneadea ALLE 17 Jan.

Red-shouldered Hawk: five Dec reports; 2 Jamestown CHAU 5 Jan; 2 Darien GENE 24 Jan; reports from 19 locations in Jan; six reports Feb.

Rough-legged Hawk: 3 Conewango CATT 2 Jan; 3 INWR 15 Jan; reports from 21 locations in Jan and 21 locations in Feb 1 each; 3 Somerset NIAG 28 Feb.

Barn Owl: Fredonia CHAU 12 Jan (GV ph!); same location as Nov reports.

Snowy Owl: eight Dec reports 1 each; 2 Ellery CHAU 1 Jan; 3 BuFH 2 Jan; Concord ERIE 12 Feb; Lyndonville NIAG 14 Feb; Hamburg ERIE 24 Feb.

Long-eared Owl: Tift P 18 Feb (AG), only report.

Short-eared Owl: 5 INWR 4 Dec; 2, 4 Shelby ORLE 4 Dec, 4 Feb; 14, 13, 9 Conewango CATT 7 Dec, 16 Jan, 6 Feb, highest Reg counts in years; 2 Dunkirk CHAU 11 Dec; 4, 5 Jamestown CHAU 22 Dec, 5 Jan; 2 NF 27 Dec; 4, 6, 5 Newstead ERIE 3, 27 Jan, 3 Feb; Granger ALLE 4 Feb; good showing.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: 2 Pembroke GENE 28 Dec (GR); WTSP 1-30 Jan (CB, JKet, mob); only reports.

Red-headed Woodpecker: unusual with no reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: eight Dec reports, six Jan reports, five Feb reports 1 each; max 3 Alexander GENE 7 Jan.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Northern Shrike: 16 Dec reports, 19 Jan reports, five Feb reports, 1 each.

Fish Crow: 1-3 Buffalo ERIE 4 Dec thru (SD); 3, 4, 1 FLC 3, 14 Jan, 5 Feb; becoming regular at these locations in winter.

Common Raven: increased number of reports.

Horned Lark: 50 Java WYOM 20 Dec; 65 Oakfield ORLE 29 Dec; 120 Alabama GENE 5 Jan; 185, 100 Bethany GENE 28 Jan, 2 Feb; max 275 Somerset NIAG 30 Jan.

Winter Wren: eight Dec reports 1-2 each; 2 FMCS 14 Jan; 2 BeSP 30 Jan; only reports beyond Dec.

Marsh Wren: North Harmony CHAU 11 Dec, 17 Jan (TL ph!); CSWMA 3 Jan (JM!); Ellicottville CATT 7 Jan (JKea ph!); good showing for winter.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: BeSP 4 Dec (DeS), late.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: four Dec reports 1 each; Hamburg ERIE 2 Jan (SB); NFSP 2, 31

Jan, 3 Feb (WD & BP, PY); Amherst ERIE 22 Feb.

Eastern Bluebird: max 22 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 4 Feb; well reported thru Reg.

Hermit Thrush: Machias CATT 20 Dec; Medina ORLE 28 Dec; Sturgeon Point ERIE 28 Jan; 2, 1 GHSP 30, 31 Jan (JJ, PM); Alfred ALLE 3 Feb (FB); Amherst ERIE 14 Feb (HD); good showing.

American Robin: 130 Medina ORLE 28 Dec; 115 LBSP 14 Jan; 100 BeSP 19 Jan; 300 Scio ALLE 7 Feb; max 550 Buffalo ERIE 15 Feb (JKEt); 203 Orangeville WYOM 23 Feb.

Gray Catbird: 7 Dec reports, 4 Jan reports, six Feb reports 1 each; excellent showing.

Brown Thrasher: Cassadaga CHAU 9, 13 Feb (RB), rare winter report.

Bohemian Waxwing: no reports.

Cedar Waxwing: max 360 Newfane NIAG 6 Jan; 125 Chautauqua CHAU 17 Jan; 150 Scio ALLE 7 Feb.

American Pipit: BufH 7 Dec (KR); only report.

Evening Grosbeak: 50 Mayville CHAU 3 Dec; 40, 65 Machias CATT 5 Dec, 12 Jan; 28, 10, 8 Andover ALLE 9 Dec, 31 Jan, 10 Feb; 33, 14 Alfred ALLE 14 Dec, 2 Feb; 18, 19 New Hudson ALLE 28 Dec, 24 Feb; 38 Gerry CHAU 31 Dec; 24 Rushford ALLE 8 Jan; 30 Gerry CHAU 19 Jan; 12 AISP 13 Feb; good showing; few away from Southern Tier.

Purple Finch: max 20 HBWMA 27 Dec; 12 Jamestown CHAU.

Common Redpoll: 200 Java WYOM 17 Dec; 300 Lewison NIAG 27 Dec; max 365, 451 Yates ORLE 29 Dec, 2 Jan; 260 Grove ALLE 29 Dec; 300 Holland ERIE 1 Jan; 250 Elba GENE 7 Jan; 225 Somerset NIAG 18 Feb; 250 Porter NIAG 22 Feb.

Hoary Redpoll: 2, 1 Yates ORLE 29, 31 Dec (AH, BC ph!); Carlton ORLE 6 Feb (GL); 2 Somerset NIAG 8 Feb (JS ph!); Porter NIAG 22 Feb (VR); good showing.

Red Crossbill: Buffalo ERIE 6 Dec (JPe); 3, 14 Caneadea ALLE 12 Dec, 28 Feb (KS); only reports.

White-winged Crossbill: FMCSP 1 Jan (JKEt); Holland ERIE 13 Jan (RS); only reports.

Pine Siskin: max 81, 61 East Aurora ERIE 2, 16 Dec; 24 Grand Island ERIE 5 Jan; 33 Newfane NIAG 10 Jan; 20, 23 Somerset NIAG 29, 31 Jan; 30 Attica WYOM 14 Feb.

American Goldfinch: max 127 Orangeville WYOM 26 Dec.

Lapland Longspur: 3 Wilson NIAG 19 Dec; 2 Olcott NIAG 19 Dec; 2 Dunkirk CHAU 2 Feb; max 110 Yates ORLE 9 Feb (WD); 2 Fredonia CHAU 12 Feb; 8 Porter NIAG 18 Feb; BufH 20 Feb (JKEt); 3 Newstead ERIE 24 Feb; Clymer CHAU 26 Feb.

Snow Bunting: 100 Java WYOM 17 Dec; 125 Bethany GENE 27 Dec; 125 Pembroke GENE 28 Dec; 150, 200 Yates ORLE 31 Dec, 9 Feb; max 1060 Shelby ORLE 10 Jan; 500, 500 Wilson NIAG 30 Jan, 19 Feb; 500, 300 Somerset NIAG 31 Jan, 14 Feb; 204 Freedom CATT 10 Feb; 150 Attica WYOM 24 Feb.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: no reports.

Chipping Sparrow: four Dec reports; Wilson NIAG 17 Jan.

Field Sparrow: Krull CP 11 Dec; RWNP 13 Dec; Wethersfield WYOM 1-31 Jan; Portland CHAU 20 Jan, 1, 4 Feb; Sheridan CHAU 26 Jan; Fredonia CHAU 19 Feb; good showing.

Savannah Sparrow: Caneadea ALLE 12 Dec; 2, 1 Silver Creek CHAU 26 Dec, 15 Feb (JPo); Dunkirk Airport CHAU 4 Feb (GV); Somerset NIAG 4, 15 Feb (JS); Shelby ORLE 15 Feb (MN, CIR); good winter showing.

Fox Sparrow: five Dec reports 1 each; Tift NP 24 Feb (MM).

Swamp Sparrow: 3 Tift NP 27 Dec; Stockton CHAU 29 Dec; 2 Oakfield ORLE 31 Dec; Jan reports from 4 locations 2-3 each; Feb reports from 5 locations 1 each.

White-crowned Sparrow: 3, 4, 5 Portland CHAU 7 Dec, 19 Jan, 21 Feb; max 17, 5, 10 Porter NIAG 26 Dec, 1 Jan, 19 Feb; 3 Bethany GENE 27 Dec; 6, 8 Carlton ORLE 27 Jan, 12 Feb.

Dark-eyed “Oregon” Junco: Lockport NIAG 6 Feb (BM ph!), rare.

Eastern Meadowlark: North Harmony CHAU 5 Dec, 6 Jan; Farmersville CATT 20 Dec; Cambria NIAG 17 Feb (PS); only reports.

Red-winged Blackbird: six Dec reports 6-10 each; 6 Tonawanda ERIE 1 Jan; 8 Grand Island ERIE 1 Jan; 14, 35, 55 BuSP 1, 31 Jan, 10 Feb; 9 Machias CATT 10 Jan; arr late Feb.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 79, 67 Grand Island ERIE 29 Dec, 20 Jan; 24 Oakfield ORLE 10 Jan.

Rusty Blackbird: 4 West Seneca ERIE 9 Dec; Machias CATT 10 Jan; Hume ALLE 22 Jan; only reports.

Common Grackle: 2 Pomfret CHAU 11 Dec; 2 BuSP 19 Dec – 6 Feb; Fredonia CHAU 25

Dec; Stockton CHAU 2 Jan; 2 Shelby ORLE 31 Jan; arr late Feb.

Tennessee Warbler: Tift NP 14 Dec (TD ph!), record late.

Common Yellowthroat: North Harmony CHAU 11 Dec (TL), late.

Blackburnian Warbler: NFSP 6 Dec (WD, BP, DoS ph!), record late.

Pine Warbler: BufH 1 Dec thru (SS), apparent successful overwintering.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 14, 15, 12 BuSP 22 Dec, 11 Jan, 10 Feb (AH); 4 other Dec reports 1-4 each.

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REGION 2—GENESEE

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The winter of 2020-21 was generally quiet, warm, and lacking in significant snowfall. It began with a quiet December, with only nuisance snows. Three days topped 50° F and there were only two cool periods, 6-8 and 15-19 December. Temperatures averaged 32.9°, 2.9° above normal. Precipitation totaled 2.31", 0.50" below normal, with 10.5" of snowfall, 11.3" below normal and a maximum single snowfall of only 2.7". January continued as a typical, quiet, winter month, with most of the first three weeks warm, then winter weather setting in as a cold air mass arrived on the 17th and cold and lake effect snow followed to month's end. The high of 43° on 15 January was the lowest January high since 2003. Temperatures averaged 27.9°, 3.2° above normal. Precipitation totaled 1.97", 0.44" below normal, and snowfall totaled 21.9", 6.3" below normal. Light snow fell on 23 days and heavy on only two days. Lake Ontario remained generally ice-free other than some near-shore ice. February finally brought the deepest cold of the winter in the second and third weeks. The period 5-22 February completely below freezing was the longest such stretch since 2015, yet no records were set. Temperature averaged 23.9°, 2.5° below normal. There were four short cold intrusions toward month's end. Precipitation totaled 2.23", 0.56" above normal, with snowfall 21.6", 0.28" above normal, and snowfall totaled 29.9", 8.4" above normal. The heaviest snowfalls were on 16 and 19-20 February. A warmup began on the 24th and led to some rainfall at the end of the month.

Looking at the general picture, we again are confronted with several impacting factors, some of whose effects are not immediately obvious. It was generally warm through much of January, many new birders were still more active due to the NY Breeding Bird Atlas, and COVID restrictions were loosening. We also had many lingering species from the warm late fall and continuing winter finches. So birders were out and species counts were up. The eBird downloads for December and January were both nearly double the prior year's numbers at 24,222 and 35,061, respectively. With a cold February and only very little start to spring

movement by month's end, the download was 35,616, up about 50%, though observer numbers were nearly double at > 617. Species for the month and year-to-date ran well above their ten-year averages, for the former at: December – 147 (vs. 132.0); January – 138 (126.7), the highest since 2006 and near record high; and February – 134 (119.9), again near record high.

All of the Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) were affected, some by varied weather issues, precipitation and/or wind. Still species counts were at or above average, even in the face of weather issues, waterfowl hunting season open, COVID restrictions, and no countdown gatherings. The Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC (19 December) tallied 74 species (76 with count-week species added), with new high counts for Bald Eagle (12), Blue Jay (317), and American Crow (2801). The Rochester CBC (20 December) counted 95 (108) species, with new highs for Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (3) and Hermit Thrush (14); tied highs for N. Saw-whet Owl (1) and Common Raven (4); a second time count-week Black-legged Kittiwake; and a new species—**Swainson's Thrush**—and a new count-week species—Pine Warbler. The Conesus-Hemlock (Little Lakes) CBC (26 December) logged 83 (83) species, with new highs for Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (4), Tufted Titmouse (147), White-crowned Sparrow (11), and Dark-eyed Junco (434). All in all a good CBC season.

Moving on to more specifics, as usual we start with waterfowl. Again this season, all really expected species were reported in each month, with numbers generally poor to modest and good peak counts typically only on one or a very few dates for any species. In December we had high counts of Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Mallard, and Redhead plus the usual too many Mute Swans. The other swans were low in December this year. Long-tailed Duck numbers were good along the Lake Ontario shore, but down from recent highs. Redhead and Ring-necked Duck were high at their usual Finger Lakes sites. Lingering merganser numbers were down, as were grebes, though Brad Carlson did note a good count of 118 Red-necked Grebes on 14 December off Hamlin Beach State Park, high historically but down for recent years. The January State Waterfowl Count (WFC) provides a good comparison point. As usual, winter arrived on the eve of the official count date (17 January), and snow, cold, and wind persisted through the week of alternate dates. Still, counters managed to find decent dates to cover their sections. Surprisingly, on the days with the best visibility out over Lake Ontario, there were almost no waterfowl to be seen way out. The WFC total of 54,094 individuals was the third highest since 1973, BUT $\frac{3}{4}$ of that total was Canada Goose and Redhead. 34 species was a good number for the count. Another interesting observation was on the effect of count timing details. At one site in Mendon Ponds Park, counts of Canada Goose varied from 8000 to 4000 to 0 with less than one hour changes in when observers counted on the same day. Finally, in February the waterfowl picture changed little other than with all of the lakes, bays and ponds mostly frozen, birds moved about to the patches of open water and very few new arrivals were noted. Detection of new arrivals was made difficult by the larger numbers overwintering. Rarer species included King Eider,

Harlequin Duck, and Barrow's Goldeneye, with several of the last species appearing near the mouth of the Genesee River. Loons and grebes continued very scarce.

Catching loose ends between the waterfowl and shorebirds, we find a **Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird** at a feeder near Sodus, Wayne County in December and a Sora seen and photographed in Mendon Ponds Park at the usual Virginia Rail site, with Virginia Rail not found there until February this season. American Coot numbers were poor through the season. Lingered Sandhill Crane numbers continue to increase, with 138 in the Region into December in the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA), good numbers into January, and two there in February. There were even more in nearby parts of Region 3. Up to nine individuals were seen well into winter in the area north of the village of Honeoye and west into the Town of Livonia, Livingston County.

Shorebirds were scarce, with only Killdeer reports from the Braddock Bay barrier island and in February also on fields west of Rochester, Purple Sandpiper at Point Breeze, Orleans County, and Wilson's Snipe at two locations in January.

Wandering through the gulls and terns and on to waders, we find gull numbers generally down a bit from recent winters, with a mostly open water at first then everything frozen through most of February, so very limited ice edges where the birds typically rest. But there is always something of interest. An immature Black-legged Kittiwake showed up in Irondequoit Bay 18-19 December and again at several locations in January; likely the same individual, rare here in winter. An adult Little Gull was found at Turning Point Park on the Genesee River about 2.1 miles inland from Lake Ontario on 18 December, then seen later that day headed out near the river mouth. Bonaparte's Gull lingered to late January followed by a single report in early February. The usual winter visitors—Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous Gulls—were seen through the season though in lower numbers than in many recent winters. A rare Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gull hybrid was reported and photographed at a couple of locations in January, and a Herring x Glaucous Gull hybrid was seen at Sodus Point by Tim Lenz on 13 February.

The Bird of the Season was an **Anhinga** found and photographed on Black Creek in Churchville Park, Monroe County on 13 December by Pam Inzinna and seen there by hordes of birders through the 18th. This was the first Regional record. Wrapping up, a Great Egret at Turning Point Park on 3 January was record late for our Region. Double-crested Cormorant number peaked at 34 at a single site in early January, then dropped to 1-2 through the rest of the season.

Among the raptors, all expected species were reported in all months, with numbers generally unremarkable. There were no Black Vulture or Northern Goshawks reports and only three Red-shouldered Hawks in December and January and two in February. Golden Eagles at the Honeoye Inlet WMA in December and near Fairport in February were rare finds. Bald Eagle was good all season and will be listed as lines in the eBird download each month. The Cooper's Hawk:Sharp-shinned Hawk ratio was typical of this Region in winter at from 5:1

in December to 3.5:1 in February. Another nice find was a *calurus* Red-tailed hawk found by David Tetlow near Spencerport on 14 December and seen 14-16 January by Andy Guthrie and Greg Lawrence. Rough-legged Hawk increased from few in December to about 17 locations in February. In the late February warming, Dominic Sherony did a brief hawk watch at Braddock Bay on 26 February and noted 10 raptors of five species passing. The official count will begin on 1 March, with David Brown returning as primary counter.

Moving to nocturnal raptors, it was interesting, personally, to start late on the Rochester CBC due to light rain mixed with snow and breezy and to have 1-3 Eastern Screech-Owls reply to my imitations at seven of eight stops between 6:00 and 7:10 AM. Snowy Owls were scarce, with about three, one, and five reported in the season's months, respectively. Short-eared Owl counts on the regular bi-weekly DEC surveys out of the Avon office remained very good through the season. There were both Long-eared and N. Saw-whet Owls found in the Owl Woods roost area each month, with Jim Adams reporting a total of 10 N. Saw-whet Owls tallied in February, the second highest February total since he has been summarizing the counts. There was also a continuing presence of a Barred Owl there, later taken advantage of by photographers and others needing a refresher on their birding ethics. Another N. Saw-whet Owl was also added to the Rochester CBC from Frisbee Hill by Robert Buckert and Jules Wagner. There were no Red-headed Woodpecker reports for the season. But Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was a good indicator of lingering half hardies, with ~ 40 in December, 29 in January, and still ~ 28 in February, when typically they have dropped to < 5 and often to zero. The three regular falcons were reported in good numbers all season, increasing through the months.

On to the passerines, we can connect the topics with Northern Shrike at 8-9 individuals each month, fairly low. Beyond that, species variety was good through the months, with essentially all expected species reported, half hardies particularly good, and winter finches present all season. At the top of the list is a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** banded at the state record late date of 11 December at BBBO. Photographs, recordings, and a feather for DNA analysis (still not completed) were gathered. In December, we also had record late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and **Swainson's Thrush**. The half hardy list of about 26 species included many in very good numbers, some persisting into February with good counts. The list of such lingering passerines not yet mentioned, with interesting February numbers in parentheses includes: Winter Wren (14); Marsh Wren; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Hermit Thrush (16); Gray Catbird (5); Brown Thrasher; Eastern Towhee; Chipping (3), Field, Vesper, Savannah (12), Fox (max 3), White-throated (many), and White-crowned (many) Sparrows; Rusty Blackbird, Orange-crowned Warbler; Common Yellowthroat; Pine Warbler; Yellow-rumped Warbler (2); and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. With the full complement of winter finches were Hoary Redpolls at nine different sites. In addition, in January very high number of records were reported for Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, and both nuthatches. There were only a few reports of Bohemian Waxwing at one site in

early December. Specific note was also made of good numbers of Lapland Longspur and Snow Bunting. With the deep cold in February, the only new passerine species added was American Pipit. Interestingly, a surprise that persisted through the season was very low numbers for all of the blackbird species, especially Common Grackle. Other rarities included: two very rare **White-crowned “Gambel’s” Sparrows** found and photographed on Gloria Drive in Penfield on 8 February by Eunice Thein and Candy Giles and seen subsequently by a few others; a **Summer Tanager** photographed at a feeder in the Town of Greece on 16 January by Kenneth Carl; and a male Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Chris and Helen Haller’s feeder in Bushnell’s Basin, Monroe County on 6 February.

A very interesting season, with many reports and great variety. Of special note were the Rufous/Allen’s Hummingbird, Anhinga, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Swainson’s Thrush, White-crowned “Gambel’s” Sparrow, and Summer Tanager. All but the thrush were documented with photographs.

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Many other observers contributed eBird data, but all cannot be listed here.

ABBREVIATIONS

BB – Braddock Bay, T Greece, MONR; **BB-ES** or **WS** – East Spit or West Spit at the mouth of Braddock Bay; **BB-HW** – at or from Braddock Bay hawk watch; **CHCBC** – Conesus-Hemlock CBC 26 Dec; **CL** – Conesus L, LIVI; **DEP** – Durand-Eastman P, MONR; **ED** – off Edgemere Dr, G; **G** – T Greece; **H** – T Hamlin, MONR; **HB** – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; **IBO** – Irondequoit Bay Outlet, MONR; **IB-S** – Irondequoit Bay south end, including LaSalle Landing P area; **IB-W** – west side of Irondequoit Bay including some parklands; **LSLCBC** – Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC on 19 Dec; **LSP** – Letchworth SP; **M (OW)** – owl woods area off Manitou Beach Rd on W side of Braddock Bay; **MP** – Mendon Ponds P, MONR; **NMWMA** – Northern Montezuma WMA, T Savannah, WAYN; **NMWMA (AR)** – north side of Armitage Rd; **NMWMA (CR)** – Carncross Rd area flooded fields; **NMWMA (MR)** – Morgan Rd marshes area; **NMWMA (VDS)** – woods and wetlands along Van Dyne Spoor Rd; **OB** – Ontario Beach, T Charlotte, MONR; **RCBC** – Rochester CBC on 20 Dec; **Spt** –

Sodus Pt, WAYN; **TCEA** – Twin Cedars Environmental Area at Avon DEC offices; **TPP** – Turning Point P, Rochester.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: max 1000+ Oatka Creek Park MONR 30 Dec (JAd); 60 Nunda LIVI 26 Feb.
Greater White-fronted Goose: T Bloomfield ONTA 14 Dec (JCo); HB 1 Jan (DeH, DiB).
Cackling Goose: 33 rep, ~ 52 ind 14 loc Dec; max 12 H 27 Dec (MBa); 25 rep, ~ 31 ind 11 loc 1-21 Jan; 3 rep, ~ 5 ind 2-3 loc Feb (4 obs).
BARNACLE x CANADA GOOSE: H 27 Dec (MBa, *et al.*), ph.
Canada Goose: max 10000 Nations Rd IBA 10 Dec (HKe); total 27,532 WFC 16-23 Jan (sev obs), very high count.
Mute Swan: max 270 IB-S 23 Dec (DC) & 16 Jan (JBo); 200 BB 30 Jan; 200 BB 6 Feb, SPT 14 Feb, & IB-S 28 Feb.
Trumpeter Swan: max 20 NMWMA (MR) 15 Jan (GDa).
Tundra Swan: max 130 BB 8 Jan (JiM).
Wood Duck: 2 Churchillville Park MONR 27 Dec PI); Canal Ponds Park, G 16 Jan (LBe); Pultneyville Harbor WAYN 23 Feb (JWi), only Feb report.
Northern Shoveler: 13 IB-S 20 Dec (CGi, SG, JV); max 17 private pond, T Penfield 17-21 Jan (C&JB, R&SSp); 14 IB Park – W 25 Jan (5 obs); 6 IB-W 2 Feb (NU); OB 8, 10 Feb (RRy); high numbers for winter, many other rep.
Gadwall: max 35 IB-S 28 Feb, decent count.
American Wigeon: 1-2 ind 3 loc 9-31 Jan, usually scarce in winter; arr BB 23 Feb; max 14 BB-WS 27 Feb (GL), low max.
Mallard: max 2650 NMWMA (SCU) 2 Dec (IBA monitoring); 2500 NMWMA (SCU) 6 Jan (AJ); good counts.
American Black Duck: 262 NMWMA (SCU) 2 Dec (IBA Monitoring); 150 Bear Creek Harbor WAYN 20 Dec (JWi); max 1000 NMWMA (SCU) 6 Jan (AJ); 256 CL 21 Jan (MW); very good counts for this species.
Northern Pintail: total ~ 14 ind 11 loc 1-25 Jan, scarce mid winter; 40 BB-WS 26 Feb (MG).
Green-winged Teal: 1-2 IBO 25-31 Jan (6 obs); SPT 26-31 Jan (MG, W&MR, JWi); usually scarce mid winter; arr Turning Point Park MONR 12 Feb (WH).
Canvasback: max 36 BB 1 Feb (MBa), low max.
Redhead: max 10,000 CL 26 Dec (GL); 8573 CL 21 Jan (MW); 4300 off Sandbar P Webster

19 Jan (JBo, RSp); total 13,261 WFC 17-24 Jan (sev obs), very high.

Ring-necked Duck: max 700 Hemlock L P 8 Jan (AF); total 1031 WFC 17-24 Jan (sev obs).

Greater Scaup: max 1000 off Lake Rd, Webster 1 Jan.

Lesser Scaup: max 150 Conesus Inlet WMA 22 Jan, low max.

King Eider: 1 f East Manitou Rd Overlook, G 1 Dec (JaG, KGri); 1 f BB-ES 21 Dec (BCar); 1 f off BB mouth 8-31 Jan (GL, mob); 1 F BB-WS 3 Feb (JKea); 1F SPT 5-13 Feb (DSH, MT, 11 oth obs, ph); likely some of these are the same individual.

Harlequin Duck: 1 f East Manitou Rd Overlook, G Dec (mob); 1 f East Manitou Rd to Round Pnd, G Jan; 1 f btwn piers near mouth of Genesee R 2-25 Feb (mob); could all be the same individual.

White-winged Scoter: max 375 SPT 14 Feb (JMcG, LS), good number, generally scarce by Feb.

Long-tailed Duck: max 1800 OB area 14 Feb (JMcG, LS), typical flock offshore on Lake Ontario, number a bit low.

Bufflehead: max 70 Conesus Inlet WMA 10 Dec, low max.

Common Goldeneye: max 275 Hemlock L 1 Dec; total 1528 WFC 16-24 Jan (sev obs).

Barrow's Goldeneye: 1-2 imm m btwn piers near mouth of Genesee R 25 Feb thru (BHaa, mob, phs).

Hooded Merganser: max 113 Conesus Inlet WMA 13 Jan, low max.

Common Merganser: max 400 IBO 24 Feb (JiM), low max.

Red-breasted Merganser: 1845 Sodus Bluff area WAYN 21 Jan (DSH, MT).

Ruddy Duck: max 18 Silver L WYOM 11 Dec. last IBO 18 Jan (JO); 1-3 scattered sites thru season, scarce by late win.

Wild Turkey: max 52 OldDuck Inn WAYN 17 Jan (DO), good flock.

Horned Grebe: max 14 off Bear Crk Harbor WAYN 11 Dec (DSH), low max; 13 off Bear Crk Harbor WAYN 13 Jan (JWi); low monthly peaks, very scarce this winter.

Red-necked Grebe: max 118 HB 14 Dec (BCar), good count, *intro*; SPT 13 Feb (LCB, SB); IBO 24-27 Feb (mob); usually scarce in Feb.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

RUFOUS/ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD:

Sodus WAYN 16 Jan (CBarlow, phs), at feeder, *intro*.

Virginia Rail: MP – Quaker Pnd 22-24 Feb (4 obs), usual wintering site.

Sora: MP – Quaker Pnd 15-16 Dec (NU, 5+ oth obs, phs), rare in winter.

American Coot: max 115 IBO 25 Jan, low max.

Sandhill Crane: max 138 NMWMA (Savannah, Rts 31 & 89) 14 Jan (AJ); 9 flying W from Honeoye WMA 26 Dec (KKi); 14 NMWMA (Savannah) 2 Jan (JGr, AV); 9 Ashley Rd, T Livonia LIVI 7; 8 Jan (BHo; TB); 2 NMWMA (Deep Muck area) 26 Feb (CL).

Killdeer: BB-ES 27-30 Dec, 1-22 Jan (mob); arr N Hamlin RD fields and OB area 27 Feb.

Purple Sandpiper: 1-2 BB-ES 1-12 Dec.

Wilson's Snipe: Conesus Inlet WMA 21 Dec (JGo); 2 Nations Rd IBA 29 Dec (MW).

Black-legged Kittiwake: IB – sev sites 18-19 Dec (BCar, JiM, mob); IB – sev sites 5; 13 Jan (NU, mob; RRY); BB-ES 11 Jan (AP); possibly same ind.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 200 IB-S 6 Dec, low max; ED & OB 12 Feb (MBa, NU), only Feb reps.

Little Gull: 1 ad Turning Point P, Rochester 18 Dec (BCar, DM, JiM, JJo); later Genesee R near mouth 18 Dec (RB, LBe).

Ring-billed Gull: max Spt 14 Feb (JMcG, LS), good count.

Herring Gull: 3000 BB-ES 22 Jan (CKI).

Iceland Gull: 3 ind 3 loc 5, 14, 19 Dec; 37 rep, ~ 21 ind 12 loc Jan; 25 rep, ~ 14 ind 9 loc Feb.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 7 rep, 5 ind 6 loc 5-31 Dec; 34 rep, ~ 24 ind 17 loc Jan; 13 rep, ~ 8 ind 6 loc Feb.

HERRING x LESSER BLACK-BACKED

GULL: Buck Pnd, G I Jan (AGu, 5 oth obs, phs); BB-ES 9-15 Jan (5 obs, phs), same ind.

Glaucous Gull: 15 rep, ~ 10 ind 6 loc Dec; 32 rep, ~ 18 ind 12 loc Jan; 11 rep, ~ 8 ind 6 loc Feb.

Herring x Glaucous Gull: Spt 13 Feb (TL, ph), interesting hybrid.

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: max 13 OB 4 Dec & HB 14 Dec, low numbers thru.

Common Loon: low numbers thru.

ANHINGA: 1 ad m Black Creek, Churchville P MONR 13-18 Dec (PI, mob many phs), 1st Reg record.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 38 RCBC 20 Dec, RCBC high count; 34 IB-Newport Marina 1 Jan (5 obs); 1-2 sev loc thru Feb.

Great Egret: TPP 3 Jan (JJo), Reg record late.

Turkey Vulture: max 65 Dalton RD, T Lima LIVI 17 Jan (AF).

Golden Eagle: Honeoye Inlet WMA 2 Dec (MW); 1 ad Fairport 21 Feb (MT); rare in winter.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 52 eBird lines many loc Jan; 55 eBird lines many loc Feb.

Cooper's Hawk: 228 eBird lines many loc Jan; 190 eBird lines many loc Feb.

Northern Goshawk: no reports.

Bald Eagle: 12 LSLCBC 19 Dec, CBC record high; 126 eBird lines 59+ loc Dec; 306 eBirdlines many loc Jan; 239 lines eBird many loc Feb.

Red-shouldered Hawk: CL – N 11 Dec (BCar); NMWMA (SCU) 14 Dec (LP); Nations Rd IBA 17 Dec (KS); Mathes area ORLE 18 Jan (GP); N Wolcott WAYN 29 Jan (W&MR); Doran Rd, T Lima 30 Jan (JGo); T Conesus LIVI 20 Feb (TBo); 1 ad Doran Rd, T Lima LIVI 23 Feb (DDa).

Red-tailed Hawk (*B. j. calurus*): Rts 531 & 31, Spencerport MONR 14 December (DT, ph) & 14-16 Jan (AGu, GL), rare.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 26 N Hamlin Rd fields 1 Jan 9DF0.

Rough-legged Hawk: 13 rep, ~ 11 ind 10 loc Dec; 22 rep, ~ 18 ind 17 loc 1-25 Jan; 49 rep, ~ 33 ind 23 loc Feb.

Eastern Screech-Owl: 62 RCBC 20 Dec, in spite of weather, *intro*.

Snowy Owl: ~ 3 ind 3 loc 16; 18; 26 Dec; Spt 26 Jan (W&MR, MG, JWi, phs); total 5 ind 4 loc 2-14 Feb.

Barred Owl: M (OW) (JAd rep0rt), relatively “tame” ind.

Long-eared Owl: M (OW) 11 Dec (BBRR counter); 2 M (OW) 2 Jan (*fide* JAd); T Ontario WAYN 4 Feb (DE, ph); 1 found dead private, T Mendon MONR 13 Feb (KA); M (OW) 20 Feb (BBRR counters).

Short-eared Owl: monthly max: 9 Buckland P, Rochester 25 Dec; 16 DEC Avon Survey 19 Jan; 4 Nations Rd IBA 13; 27 Feb. **Northern Saw-whet Owl:** M (OW) 5, 7 Dec (BBRR counter, NU); Frisbee Hill, G 20 Dec (RB, JWa), RCBC; M (OW) 17 Jan (GL, MG); Lake Rd, T Ontario WAYN 14 Feb (AS-H); total 10

ind M (OW) Feb (BBRR counters), 2nd highest for a Feb, *intro*.

Red-headed Woodpecker: no reports.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: total 40 ind many loc Dec; 52 rep, ~ 29 ind 25+ loc Jan; 42 rep, 28 ind 26 loc Feb; big numbers for winter. T Chili, MONR 7 Dec; T Rush, MONR 15 Dec; T Victor, MONR 3 Jan (RH); Hemlock L west side, LIVI 5 Jan (DD); CL Inlet 24 Feb (KC); scarce in win.

American Kestrel: 22 rep, ~ 17 ind 17 loc 1-26 Dec; 46 rep, ~ 28 ind 27 loc Jan; 20 rep, 16 ind 14 loc Feb.

Merlin: 33 rep, ~ 29 ind 28 loc 5-29 Dec; 44 rep, 42+ ind 37+ loc Jan; 37 rep, 29 ind 29 loc Feb.

Peregrine Falcon: 22 rep, ~ 19 ind 17 loc Dec; 33 rep, 21+ ind 14 loc Jan; 23 rep, ~16 ind 16 loc Feb.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER: 1b BBBO 11 Dec (APa, *et al.*), **State record late**, photos, audio recordings, and feather for DNA analysis collected.

Northern Shrike: 9 rep, ~ 9 ind 9 loc Dec; 22 rep, ~ 9 ind 9 loc Jan; 12 rep, ~ 8 ind 6+ loc Feb.

American Crow: max 14,600 SE Rochester 20 Dec, winter roost, less organized this year; 1200 NMWMA (MR) 15 Jan & 8000 there 24 Feb (GDa).

Fish Crow: total 21+ ind 6+ loc Feb, showing up at more different loc.

Common Raven: max 13 East Lake Rd, T Livonia LIVI 5 Dec (NK, SG, AMcM).

Horned Lark: max 200 N Hamlin Rd MONR 20 Jan, good count.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 46 Beatty Pt 15 Dec (GL), during RCBC; 1293 eBird lines Dec; 1788 eBird lines Jan; 1962 eBird lines Feb; illustrates many reports for common birds.

Tufted Titmouse: 1052 eBird lines Jan; 1309 eBird lines Feb.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 382 eBird lines Dec; 620 eBird lines Jan; 694 eBird lines Feb; many reps continuing thru.

White-breasted Nuthatch: 816 eBird lines Dec; 1331 eBird lines Jan; 1354 eBird lines Feb; many reps continuing thru.

Winter Wren: 41 rep, ~ 39 ind 27 loc Dec; 34 rep, 20 ind 14 loc Jan; 15 rep, 14 ind 10 loc Feb many winter.

Marsh Wren: 2 NMWMA (Guy Baldassare Marsh) 14 Dec (NJ); IB-S 1 Jan (6 obs);

NMWMA (Guy Baldassare Marsh) 4 Jan (LCB, SBe).

Carolina Wren: 517 eBird lines Feb.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: last BB-WS 11, 12 Dec (GL, JiM, LMa, BCar, SG, DSh), Reg record late.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: HB-YC 7 Dec (JiM); BB-WS 11 Dec (GL, JiM, LMa); Bisig trail, G 8 Jan (GL, DT); NMWMA (AR) 8 Feb (JMcG, LSa); usually scarce in winter.

Eastern Bluebird: total 70 CHCBC 26 Dec, good count; 20 T Parma MONR 19 Dec (DF), many for loc & date.

Swainson's Thrush: N Greece Rd 20 Dec (PD), Reg record late, 1st on RCBC.

Hermit Thrush: 30 rep, ~ 32 ind 21 loc Dec; 35 rep, ~ 26 ind 20 loc Jan; 29 rep, ~ 16 ind 16 loc Feb (DWi); HB 29 Feb (GL, RB); usually scarce in win.

American Robin: max 3000 NMWMA (MR) 15 Jan (GDa).

Gray Catbird: total 12 ind 12 loc 4-30 Dec; total ~ 11 ind 8 loc Jan; total 5 ind 5 loc Feb, usually scarce in winter.

Brown Thrasher: Webster P 23 Dec; 2 Jan (GL, JiM, JJu; KH), rare in winter.

Bohemian Waxwing: 2; 1 nr Huffer Rd, T Parma MONR 7; 10 Dec (JiM, LMa, AGu; BCar), only reps.

Cedar Waxwing: max 225 Huffer Rd, T Parma MONR 10 Dec.

American Pipit: arr SPT 5 Feb (MG, W&MR), early, only rep.

Evening Grosbeak: many reps, small numbers thru; max 25 T Nunda LIVI 12 Feb (DG).

Pine Grosbeak: total ~ 21 ind ~ 6 loc 10-23 Dec; max 18 Webster P 2 Jan (RRe, JaG); 1-4 Webster P 5-21 Feb.

Common Redpoll: monthly max: 300 T Richmond ONTA 26 Dec (JBo, NP); 280 Honeoye Falls 16 Jan (J&KGo); 223 Hance Rd, T Macedon WAYN 7 Feb (DSh); good numbers thru.

Hoary Redpoll: 1-3 BB-ES 11-28 Dec, 1-21 Jan (mob, phs); Stone Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 14 Dec (KMcGa, MG); 2 Butcher Rd, T Parma MNR 19 Dec (R&SSp, ph) & 1 there 1 Jan (LBer); Lake Bluff Rd, T N Rose WAYN 1 Jan (W&MR); T Williamson WAYN 8 Jan (MG); SPT 24 Jan (JWi); Ivison Rd GENE 1 Feb (GL); Lakeshore Marshes WMA WAYN 12 Feb (MG), many reps for this impending lump.

Red Crossbill: small flocks on a few dates scattered thru; max 29 Webster P 13 Feb (KGa, MG).

White-winged Crossbill: 2 MP 15 Dec; Webster P 23 Jan; Beechwood SP WAYN 23 Jan; T Williamson WAYN 27 Dec; 1-3 Webster P 13-28 Feb.
Pine Siskin: monthly max: 130 DEP 6 Dec; 45 Ellison P, T Penfield MONR 15 Jan; 10 Hogan Pt, G 13 Feb.
Lapland Longspur: max 35 Lakeshore Rd, T Kendall ORLE 19 Jan.
Snow Bunting: 400 N Hamlin Rd 9 Dec (JiM); max 950 Catchpole Rd WAYN 8 Jan (DDo).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: T Galen WAYN 14 Feb (PH), only rep. **American Tree Sparrow:** max 150 nr Lyons WAYN 13 Feb (LCB, SBe).
Chipping Sparrow: 1-3 T Livonia LIVI 1 Dec, 1 Jan, 6-20 Feb (TBo, ph); Cook & Redman Rds, H MONR 21 Dec (BCar); TCEA 4 Jan (MW); T Gates MONR 13 Feb (SW), usually scarce in winter.
Field Sparrow: 1-5 Sandy Bottom P, Honeoye, ONTA 3-29 Dec, 2-18 Jan (7 obs); nr Warsaw WYOM 25 Dec (RSt); NMWMA (VDS) 25 Jan (DK); T Penfield 29 Jan (CMc), usually scarce in winter.
Vesper Sparrow: Lima-Livonia TLR LIVI 23, 26 Dec (TBo, GL), 25 Jan (ST), 7, 8 Feb (MG, KGa).
Savannah Sparrow: Nations Rd IBA 6 Dec; Jones Bridge & Perry Rd, T Leicester, LIVI 18 Dec; max 7 Nations Rd IBA 25 Jan (TBo); 19 rep, 12 ind 8 loc 1-14 Feb; usually scarce & local in winter.
Fox Sparrow: total 5 ind 5 loc 1-22 Dec; 1-2 ind 6 loc Jan; total 8 ind 6 los 4-28 Feb; usually rare in winter.
Song Sparrow: max 22 Sandy Bottom P, Honeoye, ONTA 3, 13 Dec (BCar, NK).
Swamp Sparrow: 20 rep, 11+ ind 7 loc Feb, usually few in win.
White-throated Sparrow: monthly max: 35 HB 31 Dec (JPop), 40 Quaker Rd, T Macedon WAYN 31 Jan (MG), & 30 MP 20 Feb (AGa); 431 eBird lines Jan; 687 eBird lines Feb.

White-crowned Sparrow: max 28 Genesee Valley Greenway 29 Dec (NK); 105 eBird lines Jan; 188 eBird lines Feb.
WHITE-CROWNED “GAMBEL’S” SPARROW: 2 Gloria Dr. T Penfield MONR 8 Feb (ET, CGI, phs), very rare in Reg.
Dark-eyed Junco: monthly max: 65 Caledonia 26 Dec & 50 Caledonia 11 Jan (SBu, JMcC), & 60 MP 20 Feb (JGo); 1795 eBird lines Feb.
Eastern Meadowlark: no reports.
Red-winged Blackbird: monthly max: 176 Beatty Pt, G 20 Dec (GL), 100 NMWMA (CR) & N Wolcott WAYN 1 Jan, & 130 Ionia MONR 8 Feb, low numbers thru.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 140 MP 7 Jan (NK), low max.
Rusty Blackbird: Ellison P, T Penfield MONR 4 Dec (JiM); 3 LSP 11 Dec (BCar); T Springwater LIVI 26 Dec (JGre); MP 1 Jan (KM, SR); max 10 Montezuma Audubon Center, T Savannah WAYN 18 Jan (JSn), scarce in winter.
Common Grackle: max 50 T Victor ONTA 2 Feb, very low all season.
Orange-crowned Warbler: Burger P, G 4-10 Jan (DF, 6+ othobs), rare in winter.
Common Yellowthroat: Genesee Valley Greenway 4 Dec (NK); Sandy Bottom P, Honeoye ONTA 13, 26 Dec (NK, GL); total 3 ind 3 loc 2-21 Jan, usually scarce in winter.
Pine Warbler: G 10-27 Dec, 1, 7, 8, 22 Jan, 1 Feb (KGri), rare in win, 1st RCBC during count week.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 16 rep, 22 ind 13 loc Dec (17+ obs); max 5 High Acres Nature Area 14 Jan (NU); Walker Lake Ontario Rd, H 4 Feb (DF, ph); MP 23-27 Feb (SG, NU), sometimes scarce in winter.
SUMMER TANAGER: 1 f G 16 Jan (KC, ph), at feeder.
Northern Cardinal: 1045 eBird lines Dec; 1528 eBird lines Jan; 2145 line eBird Feb; many reports.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 1 ad m Bushnell’s Basin, T Pittsford MONR 6 Feb (CHa), at feeder.



REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

Bill Ostrander

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Winter 2020-21 was one to remember. In Ithaca, December was warmer and snowier than normal. The average daily high temperature was 36.8° F, 1.0° higher than normal. The average low was 24.2°, 2.7° above normal. Total precipitation was 3.79", 1.39" more than normal. Total snowfall was 18.1", 5.5" more than normal. There were 15 days with at least 1" of snow cover.

January was warmer and drier than normal. While the average high temperature was 30.9°, 0.4° below normal, the average low temperature was 20.5°, 5.1° above normal. Total rainfall was 1.84", 0.24" less than normal. Total snowfall was 14.9", 2.7" less than normal. There was at least an inch of snow cover on 19 days.

February was colder and snowier than normal. The average high temperature was 30.8", 3.2" below normal. The average low was 13.1", 3.4" below normal. Total precipitation was 2.43", 0.45" above normal. Total snowfall was 36.5", 22.3" more than normal. Snow cover was at least 7" every day of the month.

Large numbers of Snow Geese persisted in the Region until the middle of January. A high count of Trumpeter Swans was at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge in early December. Tundra Swans maintained their numbers through the season. Scattered reports of individual Ross's Geese came from each of four lakes through late January. Small numbers of Greater White-fronted Geese were present through 2 February.

Observers reported high counts for several duck species: American Wigeon in December, Lesser Scaup in January, White-winged Scoter in February, Black Scoter in January, and Common Merganser in January. Rarities were Blue-winged Teal in Union Springs, Tufted Duck on Seneca and Cayuga Lakes and at West River Preserve, possibly the same bird at all three locations, and Surf Scoter on the Chemung River and on Cayuga Lake. Among other waterfowl was a high count of Common Loons in December on Cayuga Lake and a single report of Eared Grebe at the usual location for the species in Aurora.

Sandhill Cranes produced a high count in early December. Two lingered through the first three weeks of January to set a late record. Killdeer set a high count in Schuyler County in late February and one arrived early at Myers Point on 5 February. A high count of Dunlin was at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) on 1 December. The next day, in Seneca County, a Greater Yellowlegs set a late record. Bonaparte's Gull set a high count in mid-December at Ithaca. A Laughing Gull at Geneva at the end of December was a rare winter occurrence.

Two Black Vultures appeared at compost piles in Dryden in early January and continued foraging there through the end of the season. A high count of

Turkey Vultures accumulated there in mid-January. There were two reports of Golden Eagle—one in mid-December and one in mid-February. The only report of Gyrfalcon came from Ovid in mid-December.

A Red-headed Woodpecker made a brief appearance in Ithaca in December. High counts were reported for three woodpecker species: Northern Flicker in mid-December, Red-bellied Woodpecker in early January, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in late January.

High counts of various passerine species included Tufted Titmice in January, Winter Wrens and Marsh Wrens in December, Ruby-crowned Kinglets in January and February, Hermit Thrushes in December, American Robins in February, and European Starlings in January. Observers reported all the winter finch species including high counts of Common and Hoary Redpolls, and of Red Crossbills.

Lingering passerine species were Eastern Phoebe, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Palm Warbler, Pine Warbler, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. Most surprising was a Blue-winged Warbler in the Town of Tyre in early December.

CONTRIBUTORS

Cindy Ahern, Scott Ahern, Janet Akin, Tom Auer, Mitchell Barry, Shawn Billerman, Wes Blauvelt, Joseph Brin, Mark Brown, Robert Buckert, Brad Carlson, Donna Carter, Ethan Chaffee, Larry Chen, Barbara Clise, Jeremy Collison, Alex Cook, Doug Daniels, Jillian Ditner, Joe Doherty, Adriaan Dokter, Sarah Dzielski, Eduardo Inigo Elias, Jody Enck, Jennifer Fais, Adam Farid, Ash Ferlito, Kyle Gage, Daniel Graham, Kate Graham, Jane Graves, Derek Green, Michael Gullo, Ginny Halterman, Cullen Hanks, Helen Heizyk, Stephanie Herrick, Paul Herwood, Tristan Herwood, Wesley Hochachka, Jack Hutchison, Jasdev Imani, Carolyn Jacobs, Matthew Janson, Nick Kachala, Hayden Keene, John Kelland, M Kelly, Dave Kennedy, Connie Kitner, Renee Kittleman, Jordan Klein, J Gary Kohlenberg, Stuart Krasnoff, Ethan Lai, Tim Lenz, Benjamin Mack, Brian Marino, Patrick Marr, Catharine Marsh, Patricia Martin, Martha Mayo, Jay McGowan, Kevin McGowan, Kevin McMahon, Phil McNeil, Matthew D. Medler, Eliot Miller, Phil Mills, Ann Mitchell, Ann McMican, Liisa Mobley, Will Morris, Kevin Murphy, Michele Neligan, Bill Ostrander, Shealyn Otto, Elizabeth Padgett, Michelle Perry, Mike Powers, Shannon Reynolds, Laetitia Rodet, Paul Rodewald, Ken Rosenberg, Livia Santana, Jerry Skinner, Joshua Snodgrass, Dave Spier, Constance Stein, Reuben Stoltzfus, Lee Sutcliffe, Michael Tetlow, Mayte Torres, Brian Tuttle, Nathan Ukens, Merjin van den Bosch, Kai Victor, Vicens Vila, Jules Wagner, Brad Walker, Davey Walters, Julia Wang, Brandon Woo, Aaron Yappert, Alex Young, Linda Ziemba.

ABBREVIATIONS

CygL – Cayuga L; **MNWR** – Montezuma NWR; **SLSP** – Seneca L SP; **SRCP** – Stevenson Rd Compost Piles, TOMP; **StP** – Stewart P, TOMP; **TFay** – T Fayette, SENE; **Ith** – T Ithaca, TOMP; **TJan** – T Lansing, TOMP; **TMil** – T Milo, YATE; **TPot** – T Potter, YATE; **TTyr** – T Tyre, SENE.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Ross's Goose: SLSP 5 Dec; Canandaigua L ONTA 19-23 Dec; Owasco L Inlet CAYU 3 Jan; Lake Road Bluff CAYU 14 Jan; City Pier ONTA 28 Jan.

Snow X Ross's Goose: TJan 16 Jan (Jay McGowan, ph; Livia Santana).

Greater White-fronted Goose: max 8 SLSP 31 Jan-1 Feb.

Cackling Goose: max 16 MNWR 10 Dec.

Barnacle X Cackling Goose: MNWR 3 Dec (Nick Kachala, ph!).

Trumpeter Swan: max 43 MNWR 2 Dec (Ann McMican!), high.

Blue-winged Teal: Factory Street Pd CAYU 14 Feb (Michele Neligan!).

American Wigeon: max 400 CygL SP 14 Dec (Tim Lenz, Matt Medler), high.

TUFTED DUCK (R3): Seneca L 24 Jan-23 Feb (mob, ph); CygL SENE 21 Feb (Ken Rosenberg!); W River Preserve YATE 28 Feb (Brad Carlson, ph).

Lesser Scaup: max 3200 Perry Pt YATE 27 Jan (Jay McGowan), high.

Surf Scoter: 2 StP 3 Dec; Elmira Dam CHEM 4-5 Dec; StP 8-11 Dec (Adriaan Dokter, Jay McGowan), late.

White-winged Scoter: max 64 CygL SENE 4 Feb (Jay McGowan), high.

Black Scoter: 5-6 Seneca L SENE 1-4 Dec; 13 CygL TOMP 26 Dec; 16 Ladoga P TOMP 23 Jan (Tristan Herwood!), high.

Common Merganser: max 2400 CygL SENE 30 Jan (Jay McGowan), high.

Eared Grebe: Aurora Bay Boathouse CAYU 10 Dec (Jay McGowan!).

Rock Pigeon: max 500 Reynolds State Game Farm 3 Jan (Ethan Chaffee), high.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Sandhill Crane: max 275 MNWR 5 Dec (Alex Cook, Sarah Dzielski, Merjin van den Bosch); TTyr 13 Dec (Kevin Murphy), high; last 2 TTyr 21 Jan (Dave Kennedy, ph), late.

Killdeer: TFay 29 Dec; arr Myers Pt TOMP 5 Feb (Jay McGowan), early; max 7 Queen

Catharine Marsh SCHU 24 Feb (Joshua Snodgrass), high.

Dunlin: max 8 MNWR 1 Dec (Joseph Brin, Renee Kittleman), high; last MNWR 4 Dec.

Greater Yellowlegs: last Seybolt Road Bait Pds SENE 2 Dec (Dave Kennedy, ph), late.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 19 Lighthouse Pt Natural Area TOMP 14 Dec (Adrian Dokter), high; last 5 Warren W Clute Memorial P SCHU.

Laughing Gull: Geneva Lakefront P 31 Dec-1 Jan (mob, ph).

Herring X Lesser Black-backed Gull: SLSP 5 Dec (Tim Lenz, ph); SRCP 28 Feb (Jay McGowan, ph, Livia Santana)

LOONS – PARAKEET

Common Loon: max 34 StP 5 Dec (Stephanie Herrick), high.

Black Vulture: 2 SRCP 2 Jan thru.

Turkey Vulture: max 75 SRCP 17-20 Jan (Shawn Billerman, Brad Walker), high.

Golden Eagle: Ithaca Res 15 Dec (J Gary Kohlenberg); TJan 20 Feb (mob, ph).

Snowy Owl: last TFay 14 Feb.

Long-eared Owl: TMil 18 Jan (Reuben Stoltzfus).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Ithaca 20 Dec (John Kelland, Julia Wang!).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 12 Sapsucker Woods TOMP 1 Jan (Wesley Hochachka), high.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 3 T Ovid SENE 24 Jan (Reuben Stoltzfus), high.

Northern Flicker: 13 MNWR 14 Dec (Reuben Stoltzfus, Linda Ziemba), high.

GYRFALCON: T Ovid SENE 12 Dec (Reuben Stoltzfus).

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Eastern Phoebe: TPot 27 Jan (Helen Heizyk, ph).

Tufted Titmouse: max 32 Cayuga Heights 1 Jan (Paul Herwood, Tristan Herwood), high.

Winter Wren: 8 MNWR 14 Dec MNWR (Reuben Stoltzfus, Linda Ziemba), high.

PHOTO GALLERY
WINTER 2020-21



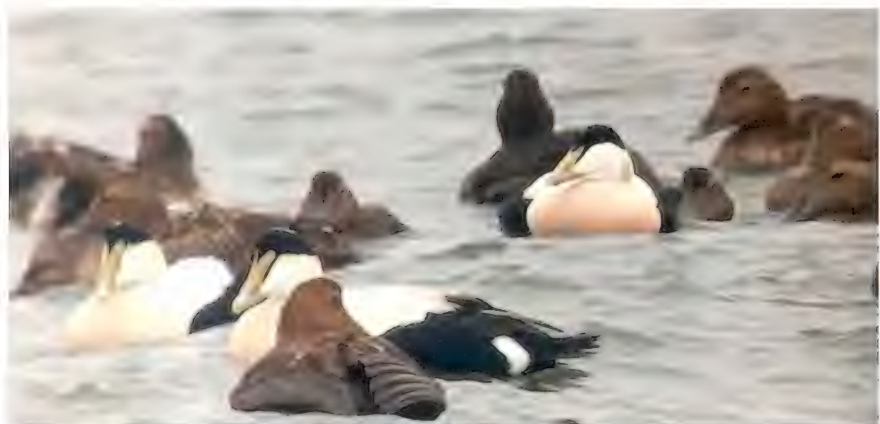
Ferruginous Hawk, Black Dirt Region, *Orange*, 25 Jan 2021, © Linda Scrima.



Snow Buntings, Tiana Beach, *Suffolk*, 14 Feb 2021, © Mike Cooper.



Hoary Redpoll, Willsboro Research Farm, *Essex*, 18 Dec 2020, © Derek Rogers.



Top: three King Eiders, Robert Moses SP, *Suffolk*, 20 Dec 2020, © Ernst Mutchnick;
middle: male Common Eider of the subspecies *borealis*, Robert Moses SP, *Suffolk*, 16 Dec 2020, © S. S. Mitra; bottom: male Common Eider of the subspecies *borealis*, possibly the same bird as above, Jones Beach West End, *Nassau*, 30 Dec 2020, © S.S. Mitra.



Eastern Phoebe with fish, East Hampton, *Suffolk*, 4 Mar 2021, © Alfred Ross. See note on p. 125.



Spotted Towhee, Baldwin Harbor Park, *Nassau*, 13 Feb 2021, © David LaMagna. See note on p. 126.

Marsh Wren: 2 MNWR 14 Dec (Reuben Stoltzfus, Linda Ziemba).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 2 Black Diamond Trail TOMP 1 Jan (Reuben Stoltzfus, Linda Ziemba); 2 Salt Pt Natural Area TOMP 12 Jan (Jay McGowan); max 2 Salt Pt Natural Area TOMP 19 Feb (Jay McGowan), high.
Hermit Thrush: max 3 Sampson SP 13 Dec (Jay McGowan), high.
American Robin: max 930 Ecology House TOMP 12 Feb (Tristan Herwood), high.
Gray Catbird: max 2 MNWR 14 Dec (Reuben Stoltzfus, Linda Ziemba), high.
Brown Thrasher: Ithaca 4 Dec; Willow Creek TOMP 21 Dec; Freeville 3-27 Feb; TMil 6 Feb; T Covert SENE 20 Feb.
European Starling: max 5000 T Owasco CAYU 3 Jan (Derek Green); 5000 T Dryden TOMP 17 Jan (Shawn Billerman, Brad Walker), high.
Pine Grosbeak: Summerhill State Forest CAYU 13 Jan (Jay McGowan!).
House Finch: max 94 TFay 25 Dec.
Common Redpoll: max 1800 T Newfield TOMP 15 Feb (Jay McGowan), high.
Hoary Redpoll: max 4 T Dryden TOMP 20-23 Jan (Jay McGowan, ph; Brad Walker), high.
Red Crossbill: max 28 Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP 31 Jan (Eliot Miller!), high.
White-winged Crossbill: max 30 Bear Swamp State Forest TOMP 19 Dec.
Pine Siskin: max 40 TIth 31 Jan.

Lapland Longspur: max 20 TFay 30 Jan.
Snow Bunting: max 1000 T Torrey YATE 24 Jan.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: Beulahland STEU 12-29 Dec; T Jerusalem YATE 14 Jan thru ; T Torrey YATE 27 Jan; TPot 18 Feb thru.
Chipping Sparrow: Sapsucker Woods 6 Dec; Hog Hole TOMP 11 Dec; TMil; 1-2 T Groton TOMP 12-14 Feb; T Canisteo STEU 13 Feb; T Manchester ONTA 17-21 Feb.
Vesper Sparrow: T Romulus SENE 4 Feb (Jay McGowan, ph).
Fox Sparrow: TLan 2 Dec (Brian Marino); TIth 6 Dec (Stephanie Herrick!); TIth 8 Dec (Jane Graves).
Blue-winged Warbler: TTyr 7 Dec (Donna Carter, ph),
Common Yellowthroat: MNWR 4 Dec (Robert Buckert, Jules Wagner); MNWR 14 Dec (Reuben Stoltzfus, Linda Ziemba); SLSP 28 Dec (Jay McGowan, ph; Livia Santana).
Palm Warbler: TPot 12 Feb (Reuben Stoltzfus!).
Pine Warbler: T Veteran CHEM 18 Dec (Hayden Keene, ph),
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 7 Hanley Biological Field Preserve SENE 9 Jan.

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REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

Lance Verderame

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Weather data obtained from the Binghamton Station for December showed a high of 53° F on 25 December and a low of 3° on 19 December. The average temperature for the month was 29.1° which was 1.8° above normal. December precipitation was 5.88" which was 2.91" above normal. The high temperature for the month of January was 44° on 2 January and the low was 11° on 29 January. The average temperature for January was 24.4° which was 2.3° above normal. January precipitation was 1.87" which was 0.63" below normal. For the month of February the high temperature was 48° on 24 February and a low of 2° on 8

February. The average temperature was 23.3° which was 0.7° below normal. The precipitation for February was 2.61" which was 0.23" above normal.

Waterfowl, once again, were well represented this period with the highlights being the two Tundra Swans seen by many observers on Boland Pond and the female Black Scoter found by David Nicosia at Lisle Park. Canvasback was reported in both Broome and Chenango Counties and Red-breasted Merganser was found in both Broome and Cortland Counties.

The Cortland Gravel Pits had a trifecta of good gull species with Iceland Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull and Greater Black-backed Gull all being reported there. A Lesser Black-backed Gull was also reported from Dorchester Park in Broome County on 11 December.

The most interesting reports of raptors included a long staying adult Northern Goshawk in Oxford in Chenango County as well as a Snowy Owl in Guilford which was reported from 20 January through 20 February. This was a very good year for Rough-legged Hawk with many reports throughout the Region. The big disappointment was the lack of any reports of Northern Saw-whet Owls in the Region.

There were reports of Northern Shrike in Broome, Otsego and Chenango Counties. With the exception of Pine Grosbeak all the winter finches were reported in the Region including both crossbill species and multiple reports of Hoary Redpoll. Other interesting finds for the period was the only report of Lapland Longspur in Delancey (Delaware County), a Pine Warbler in Apalachin (Tioga County) and a Wilson's Warbler in Lisle (Broome County).

The bird of the period for the Region goes to the Long-eared Owl reported by Adam Troyer at the Birdsong Meadows Farm. Any report of this increasingly rare species is a welcome sight.

CONTRIBUTORS

Jonathan Adamski, Ryan Andrew, Wes Blauvelt, Susan Boyce, Ted Buhl, Rick Bunting, Jodi Brodsky, Sean Camillieri, Jeremy Collison, Sandy Covington, Barb Craig, Renee Davis, Sam Deane, Michael DeWispelaere, Rudolph DiFiglia, David Diaz, Carol Edwards, Robert Fairlie, Michael Foor-Pessin, Bryan Franz, Noah Garwood, Derek Green, Peter Harrity, James Hoteling, Mark Husted, Rebecca Husted, Jacob Jensen, Sarah Jones, M. Jordan, Christina Knezevich, William Kuk, Victor Lamoureux, Mitch Light, Alexandra Machrone, David McCartt, Jay McGowan, Molly McManus, Deborah Miller, Catherine Murphy, Jeffrey Murray, Julie Nauseef, Matt Nichols, David Nicosia, Andrew Oliver, Otto Onasch, Ruth Pedersen, Aidan Perkins, Jerry Platz, Jeffrey Poulin, Michael Reid, Mickey Ryan, Thomas Salo, Joe Sedlacek, Anna Shaheen, Suzanne Summers, Charlie Todd, Alex Trifunovic, Adam Troyer, Lance Verderame, Lisa Viviano, Matthew Voelker, Fred von Mechow, Dan Watkins, Jonathan Weeks, Kelly White, Glenn Wilson, Sam Wilson, Tim Wing, Jennifer Wolfe, Colleen Wolpert, Matthew Young.

ABBREVIATIONS

ALk – Allen L, OTSE; **AqPk** – Aquaterra P, BROO; **BCBC** – Binghamton CBC, BROO; **BMF** – Birdsong Meadows Farm, TIOG; **BPd** – Boland Pd, BROO; **BUNP** – Binghamton University Nature Pres, BROO; **CaHo** – Cannon Hole, T Barton, TIOG; **CanL** – Canadarago L, OTSE; **CannR** – Cannonsville Res, DELA; **CG** – Carantouan Greenway, T Barton, TIOG; **ChenL** – Chenango L, T New Berlin, CHEN; **ChRB** – Chenango Ri, Greater Binghamton, BROO; **CoPk** – Confluence P, Owego, TIOG; **CRes** – Cannonsville Res & outflow, DELA; **CVSP** – Chenango Valley SP, T Fenton, BROO; **DeIR** – Delaware Ri, Deposit, DELA; **DorP** – Dorchester P, Whitney Pt, BROO; **FMHW** – Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch, DELA; **FMT** – Franklin Mtn, T Davenport, DELA; **GrwP** – Greenwood CP, BROO; **HCP** – Hillcrest Pits, Port Dickenson, BROO; **LHNC** – Lime Hollow Nature Center, T Cortlandville, CORT; **LPSF** – Long Pd SF, CHEN; **MHL** – Michigan Hollow L, TIOG; **NSpM** – N Spencer Marsh, T Spencer, TIOG; **OnCBC** – Oneonta CBC, OTSE/DELA; **OtsL** – Otsego L, OTSE; **OwCBC** – Owego CBC, TIOG; **PRes** – Pepacton Res & outflow, DELA; **SCBC** – Sherburne CBC, CHEN (mostly); **SkaL** – Skaneateles L, L (SE), T Scott, CORT; **SStBS** – Spring Street Bird Sanctuary, BROO; **StPd** – Stupke Pd, T Cortlandville, CORT; **SusRB** – Susquehanna Ri, Greater Binghamton, BROO; **UL** – Upper Lisle, BROO, **ULCP** – Upper Lisle CP, T Triangle, BROO; **WPres** – Whitney Pt Res, BROO.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 175 Oxford, CHEN 17 Dec (MD); 150 Johnson City, BROO 17 Dec (JH); 100 Endicott, BROO (JP); 150 TC Airport, BROO 22 DEC (MJ); 150 SStBS 23 Dec (GW).

Canada Goose: 1000 Kilroy Rd. CHEN 7 Dec (MD); 1100 Spring Ctr. OTSE 9 Dec (TB); 600 Mead Pd 16 Dec (ATri).

Tundra Swan: 2 BPd 25 Feb - 26 Feb (mob).

Wood Duck: Plymouth Res CHEN 1 Dec (CM); LHNC 3 Dec (PH); Chenango Ri CHEN 16 Dec (MD); 2 BPd 27 Feb-28 Feb (MRy,JH); 2 Harold Moore Pk, BROO 27 Feb (DN); 2 Downsville DELW 28 Feb (LVe).

Gadwall: ULCP 3 Dec (ATri); Cooperstown OTSE 17 Jan (DD); Marathon CORT 24 Jan (MY); max site 7 CRes 30 Jan (LVe); max site 5 Nichols Boat Launch, TIOG 25 Feb (DG); max site 3 BPd 3 Feb-26 Feb (WK,DN,mob).

American Wigeon: Sherburne, CHEN 19 Dec (MD); max site 3 CRes 10 Jan (LVe); Nichols Boat Launch 25 Feb (DM); site max 28 BPd 27 Feb (SR).

Mallard: 95 Deposit 10 Jan (JB); site max 170 HCP 10 Feb (JWe)74 Chenango Ri 17 Feb (MD); 152 Deposit, 21 Feb (LVe); site max 118 BPd 26 Feb (AS,BF,LVi).

American Black Duck: site max 36 Chenango Ri 17 Feb (MD); site max 94 CRes 21 Feb (LVe); site max 46 BPd 27 Feb (DN).

Northern Pintail: 2 Portlanville OTES 8 Jan (SS); 2 Cooperstown 17 Jan (DD); max site 4 BPd 27 Jan-28 Feb (mob); 2 CRes 30 Jan (LVe); 3 Nichols Boat Launch 25 Feb (DM); 2 Endwell BROO 26 Feb (JA,AM).

Green-winged Teal: 2 StPd 3 Dec (JJ); site max 3 LHNC 10 Dec-22 Feb (mob); Chenango Ri 21 Jan (MD); 3 Cooperstown 17 Jan (DD); HCP 21 Feb (DN); site max 2 BPd 26 Feb (DN).

Canvasback: Cortland Gravel Pits CORT 2 Dec (JC); max site 6 HCP 10 Feb-27 Feb (mob); 2 Chugnut River Walk BROO 26 Feb-28 Feb (MJ,DN,GW).

Redhead: 3 Cortland Gravel Pits 6 Dec (JC); 8 Allen Lk , OTSE 9 Dec (TB); max site 16 HCP 13 Feb (MD); 4 Chenango Ri 22 Feb (MD); 3 Honeymoon Cottage 25 Feb (DG).

Ring-necked Duck: max site 450 Allen Lk 7 Dec (TB); max site 60 CRes 24 Jan (LVe); site max 11 HCP 13 Feb (SD).

Greater Scaup: 5 Cortland Gravel Pits 16 Dec (JM,JC); 4 Binghamton 15 Feb (WK); 3 HCP 24 Feb (DW).

Lesser Scaup: 2 Cortland Gravels Pits 6 Dec (JC); 11 Allen Lk 7 Dec (TB); max site 4 HCP 24 Feb (DW).

Black Scoter: 1 ULCP 2 Dec - 7 Dec (DN).
Long-tailed Duck: 2 Cortland Gravel Pits 8 Dec (JM).
Bufflehead: max site 26 ULCP 2 Dec (DN); max site 37 Lake Front Pk, OTSE 17 Jan (DD).
Common Goldeneye: 80 Allen Lk 3 Dec (TB); 16 CRes 2 Jan (LVe); 22 Downsville 21 Feb (LVe).
Hooded Merganser: 90 Canadarago Lk, OTSE 9 Dec (TB); site max 24 ChenL 14 Dec (MD); site max 190 OtsL 15 Dec (TB); site max 75 Otsiningo Pk, BROO 31 Jan (WK); site max 58 HCP 12 Feb (SB); site max 55 River Walk, BROO 15 Feb (MRy).
Common Merganser: max site 135 ULCP 8 Dec (DN); max site 100 Chenango Lk 14 Dec (MD); max site 300 OtsL 16 Dec (TB); 516 Canadarago Lk 8 Jan (TS).
Red-breasted Merganser: max site 6 ULCP 11 Dec (ATri); Chenango Lk, CHEN 26 Dec (MD); HCP 10 Jan (DN).
Ruddy Duck: site max 32 ULCP 2 Dec (DN).
Ring-necked Pheasant: Lk Delaware, DELA 1 Dec (RP); MHL 3 Dec-28 Feb (WB,SCo); ULCP 5 Dec (DN); Handen, DELA 31 Dec (JWo); Binghamton 10 Jan (DN); ULCP 7 Feb (KW).
Ruffed Grouse: Scattered reports in all counties throughout Region.
Wild Turkey: Many reports in all counties throughout Region.
Pied-billed Grebe: Millbrook Town Pk, CHEN 1 Dec (MD); ULCP 4 Dec-12 Dec (JWe, ATri); River Walk 10 Jan (DN,MJ); Lake Front Pk 4 Feb (SS); River Walk 28 Feb (DN).
Horned Grebe: ULCP 2 Dec-11 Dec (DN,JWe,ATri,GW,VL).

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

American Coot: max site 36 Lake Front Pk 1 Jan (SS).
Killdeer: 2 Vestal, BROO 25 Feb (GW); 2 HCP 27 Feb (DN); Deposit 27 Feb (LVe); Hamden, DELA 28 Feb (MN); Mercereau Pk, BROO 28 Feb (LVi).
Ring-billed Gull: scattered reports in all counties in Region. max Region 700 Broome Cty Lanfill, BROO 5 Dec (DN).
Herring Gull: scattered reports in all counties in Region. max Region 70 ULCP 8 Dec (DN).
Iceland Gull: 2 Cortland Gravel Pits 6 Dec (JC).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: Cortland Gravel Pits 2 Dec (JC); Dorchester Pk, BROO 11 Dec (DW).

Great Black-backed Gull: site max 7 Cortland Gravel Pits 6 Dec (JC); LHNC 23 Dec (PH); Cortland, CORT 6 Feb (JC).

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: ULCP 2 Dec (DN).
Common Loon: 6 Cortland Gravel Pits 6 Dec (JC); OtsL 15 Dec (TB); Mead Pd 16 Dec-19 Dec (MD,ATri); PRes 1 Jan (LVe); Lake Front Pk 1 Jan - 14 Jan (SS,DD).
Double-crested Cormorant: Cortland Gravel Pits 5 Dec (JC); 2 ULCP 7 Dec (DN,ATri,GW).
Great Blue Heron: scattered reports of 1-2 birds in all counties in Region
Turkey Vulture: 3 Marathon 5 Feb (JN); Candor, TIOG 14 Feb (RD); many late Feb records in Binghamton with a max count of 14 Giles Street 24 Feb (RH,MH).
Golden Eagle: max site 6 FMHW 15 Dec (reported by site); PRes 8 Jan (SCa,MRI); 2 Sherburne, 2 Roscoe, DELA 9 Jan (AP); CHEN 18 Jan (MD); Bovina Ctr. 28 Jan (RP); Roscoe 14 Feb (LV).
Northern Harrier: 4 Plymouth, CHEN 12 Dec (MD); 2 Sherburne 16 Dec (MD); other scattered reports of single birds in CHEN, BROO and OTSE counties.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: scattered reports of single birds in all counties in Region with the exception of OTSE.
Cooper's Hawk: Reports by many observers in all counties in Region.
Northern Goshawk: Oxford, CHEN 5 Jan-27 Feb (MD); Johnson City, BROO 29 Jan (JH).
Bald Eagle: 54 CRes 8 Jan (SCa,MRe); reported in all counties in Region.
Red-shouldered Hawk: Johnson City 30 Jan (DN); Conklin, BROO 21 Feb (JWe); Kirkwood, BROO 24 Feb (JWe); Springfield Ctr, OTSE 26 Feb (ML).
Red-tailed Hawk: many reports throughout Region.
Rough-legged Hawk: A good year for this species. Many reports throughout entire Region.
Eastern Screech-Owl: Sherburne 27 Dec - 25 Feb (FvM); Downsville 3 Jan (LVe,RDa); Norwich, CHEN 26 Jan (AO); Fly Creek, OTSE 10 Feb (DD); Newark Valley, TIOG 11 Feb (DG); Delhi, BROO 14 Feb (OO); 2 Candor, TIOG 14 Feb (RDi).
Great Horned Owl: many reports throughout Region.
Snowy Owl: Guilford, CHEN 20 Jan - 20 Feb (mob); Sherburne 5 Feb (MD).

Barred Owl: many reports throughout Region.
Long-eared Owl: BMF 7 Dec (ATro).

Belted Kingfisher: many reports throughout Region.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: StPd 4 Dec (JJ); Scott 15 Dec - 26 Feb (PH); Plymouth Res 29 Jan (CM); Fly Creek 6 Feb (DMi).

American Kestrel: many reports throughout Region.

Merlin: Kinney Golf Swamp, CORT 23 Dec (JJ); Bainbridge, CHEN 14 Jan (MD); 2 Owego, TIOG 21 Jan (DM); Greene, CHEN 27 Jan (JC); Norwick 30 Jan (TW,MV); Grippen Pk, BROO 5 Feb (MJ).

Peregrine Falcon: Region max 3 downtown Binghamton 21 Feb (AS).

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Eastern Phoebe: Owego 24 Jan (CW).

Northern Shrike: Fly Creek 5 Dec (DD); Cortland 18 Jan (JC); Lisle, BROO 19 Jan (JH,GW); Hoag, CHEN 4 Feb (MD).

Fish Crow: max Region 15 Vestal 20 Feb (GW); 14 Chugnut River Walk 21 Feb (DN,LVi).

Common Raven: 16 Downsview 16 Jan (LVe); many other reports throughout Region.

Horned Lark: 24 Springfield Ctr. 15 Jan (TB); 60 Sherburne 27 Feb (FvM); 50 Harold Moore Pk 27 Feb (DN); 64 Delancy, DELA 28 Feb (LVe).

Winter Wren: CVSP 29 Dec-4 Feb (Wk,DN,GW,KW); BPd 1 Jan (DN); Newaark Valley 12 Feb (CK); S. Owego, TIOG 12 Feb (RF); Castle Creek, BROO 13 Feb (SJ); Binghamton 27 Feb (SD).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: BPd 19 Feb (DN).

Eastern Bluebird: many reports throughout Region.

Hermit Thrush: BUNP 6 Dec-18 Jan (DN,JA,RA,MM,AM); Cooperstown, TIOG 19 Dec (JM); Spencer, TIOG 19 Jan (WB); BMF 11 Feb-20 Feb (ATro); Endicott, BROO 13 Feb-14 Feb (DN,AS,JH); Johnson City 13 Feb (LVi).

Northern Mockingbird: scattered reports in BROO, TIOG, CORT and OTSE counties.

Cedar Waxwing: 22 Scott 30 Jan (PH); 30 Welsh Road Grassland, TIOG 13 Feb (DG); 32 Downsview 27 Feb (LVe); many other reports throughout the Region.

Evening Grosbeak: 28 Plymouth Res 9 Dec (MD); 100 Otselic, CHEN 3 Jan (MFP); site max 40 Otsego 3 Feb (SS). Many other reports throughout Region.

Purple Finch: small numbers scattered throughout Region.

Common Redpoll: many reports throughout Region.

Hoary Redpoll: Lisle 7 Dec (GW); Homer, CORT 31 Dec (JC); Scott, CORT 1 Jan (PH); Owego 17 Feb-thru (ATro); Owego 18 & 20 Feb (DG,DM).

Red Crossbill: max Region 26 LHNC (DG); this species was well represented this period with many reports throughout the Region.

White-winged Crossbill: max site 5 Greene, CHEN 15 Dec (ATri); 6 BMF 23 Dec (ATro); 3 Binghamton 1 Jan (DN); 2 Endicott 10 Feb (NG); 5 Endicott 13 Feb (DN).

Pine Siskin: max site 80 Bainbridge 10 Dec (RB); max site 75 Binghamton 22 Jan (DN); many other reports throughout Region.

Lapland Longspur: Delancey 28 Feb (LVe).

Snow Bunting: 63 Camillus, OTSE 6 Jan (SS); 60 MHL 8 Jan (SCo); 150 Greene 22 Jan (GW); 150 Homer 31 Jan (JJ); 80 Sherburne 5 Feb (MD).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: Lake Delaware 18 Dec (RP).

Chipping Sparrow: Scott 20 Dec-2 Feb (PH); North Norwich, CHEN 30 Jan (CE).

Savannah Sparrow: Maine, BROO 19 Dec (JS); Binghamton 26 Dec-30 Dec (DN).

Fox Sparrow: Fly Creek 18 Dec (DD); South Owego, TIOG 23 Dec (BC); Otsego 11 Jan-27 Jan (SS).

Swamp Sparrow: Owego 14 Dec (DG); max site 2 BUNP 15 Dec - 10 Jan

(DN,RA,CT,SW); 2 Sherburne 16 Dec (MD).

White-crowned Sparrow: Homer 2 Dec (JJ); Lockheed Martin Pd, TIOG 2 Jan (DG); 2 Cortland 8 Jan & 20 Feb (PH).

Rusty Blackbird: 3 Sherburne 19 Dec FvM); 5 Sherburne 3 Feb (MD).

Pine Warbler: Apalachin, TIOG 13 Feb-15 Feb (JP).

Wilson's Warbler: Lisle 16 Dec (DW).



REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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Winter 2020-2021 started with a dry, warmer-than-usual December. The average daily maximum and minimum temperatures were 3.6 ° F and 5.3° above normal and 13.2" of snow was 19.5" below expected. Rainfall was average. January's average high of 32.3° was close to normal but overnight minimums were 6.5° warmer. Snowfall was 11.3", much shy of 34" historically. A whopping 28 of 31 days were cloudy and none characterized as 'sunny.' February temperatures returned to normal as did snowfall, with spring approaching and eight days partly cloudy or better.

It was a great season for rare geese with Ross's, Greater White-fronted, and **Pink-footed** the highlights, the latter bird found at Woodman Pond by Gary Chapin on 15 December and only a third Regional record. Loyal readers will recall an individual in Onondaga County during the previous reporting period. Same bird? Lingering dabblers were about typical with Erin Brisson describing two early-returning Blue-winged Teal at Onondaga Lake on 14 February. Given the lack of other early returnees one might wonder how close the birds had wintered. As many as three King Eider graced Oswego Harbor intermittently through the winter and a Barrow's Goldeneye at Phoenix was a one-day wonder for Gregg Dashnau on 23 December.

The first-year female **Rufous Hummingbird** first seen in the previous period (but brought to wider attention in early December) continued through 23 January and was seen by many birders. Barbara Gordon provided frequent updates on the bird and along with another homeowner assured a supply of fresh nectar. A supplement made for birds in captivity was tried at one feeder but rejected and subsequently found to be unsuitable for any conditions other than room temperature. Sugar water at the typical concentrations is recommended. The bird's continued presence set a new record-late date for the species in NY, as most in the past have not attempted to overwinter much past December. Hopefully this precious bird realized it was time to get out and will be eagerly awaited should it return this fall.

The south end of Onondaga Lake was a hotspot throughout the winter season, and a Great Egret lingered there through 22 December. Only a handful of prior December records exist for upstate. Matt Brown found a very late Greater Yellowlegs at Selkirk Shores State Park on 5 December and added 5 Killdeer there on 11 December, a good number for the date. Two Killdeer in Rome on 13 January were likely very late migrants. Gull numbers were typical on the area's waterways with no rarities found and no large number of white-wingers. Black Vulture was reported from Jamesville on 28 December and 28 February and also the Little Falls birds were noted in early February. A few Snowy Owls lingered in typical

places, while at the Onondaga Lake Creekwalk a Long-eared Owl was photographed by Samantha Reiter. For the first time in a while, no Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported this winter but were hopefully just missed during visits to typical locations.

The author wondered in the previous version of this report if a big invasion of Bohemian Waxwings would happen. Alas it did not, with only four reports and small numbers. Only a few **Pine Grosbeak** continued past the early push and only seen intermittently at a couple locations. Meanwhile, the big irruption year for Evening Grosbeaks continued and impressive flocks settled in the usual hotspots for the species in the Region's forested uplands. Lucky residents enjoyed their company all winter long. Ditto for Common Redpoll which was widespread at feeders and weedy fields in the best numbers in years. Diligent searching for **Hoary Redpoll** produced reports at 12 locations, most of them well-documented with photos showing the relevant field marks. Purple Finch was represented at expected locations but not widespread. Red Crossbills continued in the southern highlands while at Fair Haven Gregg Dashnau observed 11 White-winged Crossbills passing on the lakeshore. The Morgan Hill spot enjoyed only one report of the species and no substantial invasion occurred. Pine Siskins continued in typical locations but were generally more localized and at fewer places than Redpolls. Last but not least, American Goldfinch was reported in good numbers throughout the Region but its presence every winter makes it difficult to evaluate year-to-year. To what degree, if any, is it irruptive?

White-crowned Sparrow likely wintered 3-4 different places including several at Onondaga Lake Park and 5-6 in the Baldwinsville area. More Savannah Sparrow than usual were found, including a bird in Richland found by Matt Brown on 3 and 5 January. Mike Gullo saw three in Port Byron on 9 February while a bird at Sterling Nature Center on 27 February may refer to an early migrant. In Syracuse Deborah Dohne followed up on a **Baltimore Oriole** report and found a bright and beautiful male bird on 4 February. Since the species does not winter here observers may assume it is drab, but that is not the case! A few Rusty Blackbirds were noted and the weedy 'Marshy Spits' area of Onondaga Lake held a few Red-wingeds. At the same location a Common Yellowthroat was heard calling by Jay McGowan on 7 January. Twelve reports of Yellow-rumped Warbler were received, including five in the Baldwinsville area. Terry White reported two very-rare-in-winter **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** in Cassville on 17 December following 10" of new snow. Wendy Vautrin hosted another at her feeders near Pulaski from 25 December to 15 January. Many of the lingering birds noted in this report were last seen in mid-January.

It is noted with sadness the passing of Gene Huggins in September. Gene was one of the most friendly and warm individuals the Region has ever known, and a longtime observer of birds and nature. He was also a former Regional Editor of this publication from the 1970s when it was indeed the only widespread record of bird sightings in the state. His contributions and annual Purple Sandpiper field trip to Fair Haven will be missed.

This season a total of 146 species and five hybrids were reported, which is 11 above the recent average for the Region and 15 more than last winter. Highlights of the season included: **Ross's Goose**, Greater White-fronted Goose, **Pink-footed Goose**, Blue-winged Teal, King Eider, **Barrow's Goldeneye**, Bohemian Waxwing, Evening Grosbeak, **Pine Grosbeak**, **Hoary Redpoll**, Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill, Fox Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, **Baltimore Oriole**, **Common Yellowthroat**, and **Rose-breasted Grosbeak**.

Winter 2020-21 produced 71,727 eBird records for Region 5, and were processed by Swan Swan Hummingbird v5.5. Reports were contributed by 658 people. With so many submitting to eBird, the editor would like to take this opportunity to share how the 'Contributor' names below are compiled. Names appear in the list if at least one of the following four criteria are met: (1) a person's initials are used in the 'Synopsis' section; (2) a person submits a written list of sightings to the editor; (3) a person is the only one contributing from a particular part of the Region that would otherwise have no reports; or (4) a person submits above a 'participation threshold' number of eBird records which varies by season and was set at 250 for this report. Most listed below qualified under (4) but rest assured that all submissions contribute to this report.

CONTRIBUTORS

Maryanne Adams (MA), Janet Allen, Andrew & Joann Andersen, Dennis Anderson, Faith Baker, Barbara Barker, Chelsea Beck (CBe), Sue Boettger, Carla Bregman, Joseph Brin, Erin Brisson (EB), John Bronk, Matthew Brown (MB), Ken Burdick (KB), Andrea Burke, Martin Cain, Bruce Carpenter, Tim Carroll (TC), Donna Carter (DC), Jerry Case, Roger Chambers, Gary Chapin (GC), Richard Cohen, Karl Curtis, Jim D'Angelo (JD), Gregg Dashnau (GD), Liz Del Conte (LD), Deborah Dohne (DD), Sarah Dzielski, Kaye Fenlon (KF), Kayla Fisk, Elizabeth Frascatore (EF), Barbara Gordon (BGo), Bill Gruenbaum, Mike Gullo (MG), Barbara & Larry Hall (BLH), Eric Hellquist (EH), Tyler Hodges (TH), Harmon Hoff, John Killiany (JK), Renee Kittleman, Alison Koccek, Gary Lee, Fred Leff (FL), Beverly Levreault, Cheryl Lloyd (CL), Jason Luscier, Kevin McGann, Jay McGowan (JMc), Tom McKay, Gary Meyers, John Moore, Kevin Murphy, David Nash, Joanne Oliver, Kevin Pace, Scott Peterson, Matt Perry, John Pumilio, Bill Purcell (BP), Samantha Reiter (SR), Carter Riley, Santos Rodriguez, Linda Salter, Steve Schwab (SS), Mickey Scilingo (MS), Ida Sheppard, Carol Sizemore, Kent Skaggs, Barbara Stith, Faith Thompson, Judy Thurber, Sasha Torman, Wendy Vautrin (WV), Matt Voelker, Nick Voris (NV), Drew Weber (DWe), Tom Weickert, David Wheeler (DWh), Terry White (TWWh), Robert Whitman, Robert G. Williams III, Tim Wing, Matt Young, Matthew Zera.

ABBREVIATIONS

ADK – Adirondacks, n. HERK; **BLNC** – Beaver L Nature Center, Baldwinsville; **Brew** – Oneida L at Brewerton; **BRH** – Bishop Road Hawk Watch, T Richland; **Bville** – Baldwinsville; **CM** – Clay Marsh, Clay; **Const** – Oneida L at Constantia; **DB** – Ditch Bank Rd & vicinity, T Sullivan/Lenox; **DC** – Deer Creek Marsh, T Richland; **DH** – Derby Hill, T Mexico; **DL** – Delta L; **Dolge** – Dolgeville, HERK; **FH** – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and West Barrier Bar; **Fult** – Fulton area including Oswego River, Indian Point, L Neatahwanta; **GB** – Great Bear Rec Area, Fulton; **GLSP** – Green Lakes SP, Fayetteville; **HF** – Highland Forest Co P; **HI** – Howland I WMA, CAYU; **HV** – Happy Valley WMA, Parish; **KK** – Kindred Kingdom Wildlife Center, Pennellville; **LH** – Labrador Hollow Unique Area; **L Ont** – L Ontario; **LoopR** – Loop Rd, Montezuma NWR, CAYU; **MCL** – Madison County Landfill; **MexPt** – Mexico Pt SP; **MSI** – Madison St Impoundment, Hamilton; **MW** – McKoons Rd Wetland, Colombia Center, s. HERK; **OakC** – Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse; **OF** – Old Forge; **OLC** – Onondaga L Creekwalk; **OnciL** – Oneida L; **OnonL** – Onondaga L; **OLP** – Onondaga L P (east and west shore); **OSP** – Oneida Shores P, Brewerton; **OswH** – Oswego Harbor; **Phx** – Phoenix dam area; **Ppt** – Oneida L at Phillips Pt, W Monroe; **RCFS** – Rice Creek Field Station, Oswego; **RRP** – Radisson Ri P, Three Rivers confluence, Phoenix; **SBP** – Sunset Bay P, Scriba; **SFNS** – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; **SH** – Southern Highlands of ONON & MADI; **SHTF** – Sky High Turf Farm, Chittenango; **Skane** – Skaneateles; **SNC** – Sterling Nature Center, Sterling; **SP** – Sandy Pd and vicinity; **SSSP** – Selkirk Shores SP; **SVB** – Sylvan & Verona Beach; **Syr** – Syracuse; **TNP** – Tuscarora Nature P, MADI; **TR** – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; **UM** – Utica Marsh; **VBSP** – Verona Beach SP; **WH** – Whiskey Hollow; **WP** – Woodman Pd, Hamilton.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: est 1000 SSSP 6 Dec; max 2000 SkanL 18 Jan, wintering;

Ross's Goose: Caz 6 Dec (JK); BLNC 11 Dec (LD); only reps.

Greater White-fronted Goose: SkanL 17 Jan (DWe); LaFayette 18 Jan (mob); OtiscoL 18 Jan (KB).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: WP 15-16 Dec (GC, mob, ph), 1st county rec and 3rd for Reg. **Brant:** 80 Port Ontario 8 Dec (MB), only rep.

Cackling Goose: max 4 WP 16 Dec (JMc).

Canada Goose: max est 7500 WP 16 Dec.

Snow x Canada Goose (hybrid): Phx 14 Jan (GD).

Mute Swan: 17 OnonL 4 Dec; max 74 FH 25 Jan, all large nums this loc.

Trumpeter Swan: small nums wintering var locs; max 15 FH 13 Jan.

Tundra Swan: max 445 Ppt 10 Dec.

Wood Duck: small nums 4 locs; max 4 Fult 20 Dec.

Blue-winged Teal: arr 2 OnonL 14 Feb, record early (EB).

Northern Shoveler: last OLC 27 Dec; max 5 FH 3 Dec; arr 2 OnonL 17 Feb.

Gadwall: max 24 FH 13 Jan & OnonL 27 Feb.

American Wigeon: 1-2 at 3 locs thru; arr 8 FH 26 Feb; max 12 FH 28 Feb.

Mallard: max 900 WP 16 Dec.

American Black Duck: max 180 WP 16 Dec.

Mallard x Am. Black Duck (hybrid): 1-2 at 3 locs.

Northern Pintail: 1-2 var locs thru; max 16 WP 16 Dec.

Mallard x Northern Pintail (hybrid): OswH 4 Jan thru (GD, mob).

Green-winged Teal: last WP 17 Dec; FH 12 Jan; arr Onei 18 Feb; max 4 WP 16 Dec.

Canvasback: arr WP 15 Dec; max 10 OnonL 17 Jan; small nums typ locs thru.
Redhead: max est 2000 OnonL Jan-Feb.
Ring-necked Duck: max 600 WP 5 Dec.
Greater Scaup: max est 450 OswH 27 Feb.
Lesser Scaup: max est 750 OneiL 8 Dec.
King Eider: SSSP 8 Dec; OswH 11-15 Dec; 2-3 OswH 18 Feb thru.
Surf Scoter: max 3 OswH 28 Feb.
White-winged Scoter: max 350 OswH 21 Feb.
Black Scoter: max 10 SP 3 Dec.
Long-tailed Duck: max 800 OswH 21 Feb.
Bufflehead: max 74 SkanL 3 Jan.
Common Goldeneye: max 500 OnonL 13 Jan.
BARROW'S GOLDENEYE: Phx 23 Dec (GD).
Hooded Merganser: max 109 SH 5 Dec.
Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser (hybrid): Bville 29 Jan.
Common Merganser: max est 2200 OnonL 16 Jan.
Red-breasted Merganser: max est 750 FH 11 Jan.
Ruddy Duck: last Bville 3 Jan; arr OnonL 28 Feb; max WP 7 Dec & BLNC 1 Dec.
Ring-necked Pheasant: small nums thru.
Ruffed Grouse: small nums thru.
Wild Turkey: small flocks thru; max 70 DB 9 Dec.
Pied-billed Grebe: small nums thru, mostly OnonL; max 4 OnonL 10 Feb.
Horned Grebe: max 7 DH 11 Dec.
Red-necked Grebe: singles OnonL, OswH thru 16 Jan; max 2 OswH 25 Dec & DH 5 Dec.
Rock Pigeon: flocks widespread.
Mourning Dove: small flocks widespread; max 100 DB 9 Dec – 2 Jan.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: Bville, cont thru 23 Jan (BGo), rec late stay.
American Coot: small nums OnonL & SkanL thru; max 22 SkanL 17 Jan.
Sandhill Crane: 7 SSSP 12 Dec (MB), only rep.
Killdeer: last & max 5 SSSP 11 Dec; 2 Rome 13 Jan, wintering?; arr Syr 23 Feb.
Greater Yellowlegs: SSSP 5 Dec, very late (MB).
Black-legged Kittiwake: DH 2 Dec (BP), only rep.
Bonaparte's Gull: last OswH 23 Dec; max OneiL 5 Dec.
Ring-billed Gull: max est 3000 OnonL 3 Dec.
Herring Gull: max est 1200 OswH 23 Jan.

Iceland Gull: max 5 IH 1 Feb; small nums typ locs thru.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 3 DB 4 Jan; 1-2 typ locs thru.
Glaucous Gull: max 2 SVB 1 Jan; 1-2 typ locs thru.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 132 IH 30 Jan.
Herring x Great Black-backed Gull (hybrid): DH 13 Dec (BP).

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: max 5 OswH 21 Dec; a few singles thru.
Common Loon: max 35 FH 3 Dec.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 78 Bville 31 Jan.
Great Blue Heron: max 4 OnonL 19 Dec.
Great Egret: OnonL 3-22 Dec, very rare in winter.
Black Vulture: Jville 28 Dec & 28 Feb; 1- max 3 Little Falls 26 Jan – 14 Feb; only reps.
Turkey Vulture: max 59 Jville 1 Dec, birds winter at loc thru.
Golden Eagle: SH 6 Dec, only rep.
Northern Harrier: singles typ locs thru.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: singles thru but most poorly documented.
Cooper's Hawk: good num singles thru.
Northern Goshawk: Oriskany 3 Dec, well described (CB, NV); Pulaski 14, 19 Jan (MB, ph).
Bald Eagle: max 63 OnonL 18 Feb.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 7 Marcellus 27 Feb.
Rough-legged Hawk: 1-3 var locs thru.
Eastern Screech-Owl: singles small nums mostly southern part of Reg.
Great Horned Owl: small nums thru.
Snowy Owl: few other than singles SH thru.
Barred Owl: singles thru.
Long-eared Owl: TR 12 Jan (GD); OLC 20 Feb (SR, ph); only reps.
Short-eared Owl: max 3 Oneida 1 Jan; OnonL 1 Jan; 1-3 LoopR 8-24 Feb; only reps.
Northern Saw-whet Owl: Sithe 7 Jan; Cold Brook 24 Feb; Dolge 26 Feb; only reps.
Belted Kingfisher: 1-2 typ locs thru.
Red-headed Woodpecker: no reps but known nesters likely wintering.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 11 Salisbury 1 Dec.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 1-2 winter var locs.
Downy Woodpecker: typ nums/locs.
Hairy Woodpecker: max 9 Fville

Northern Flicker: max 9 Bville 23 Feb; singles/small nums var locs thru.
Pileated Woodpecker: small nums thru.
American Kestrel: few singles var locs, thru.
Merlin: few singles var locs thru, now fairly common in winter.
Peregrine Falcon: singles/pairs typ locs thru, winterers & local nesters.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Northern Shrike: singles var locs thru but fewer than usual.
Blue Jay: max 30 Georgetown 13 Feb; typ nums winter.
American Crow: max 3000 IH 1 Feb.
Fish Crow: max 8 IH 13 Dec; small groups typ locs
Common Raven: 24 SH 22 Dec, good num; small groups var locs thru.
Horned Lark: max 126 Memphis 8 Feb.
Black-capped Chickadee: typ nums.
Tufted Titmouse: typ nums.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 12 Pulaski 13 Feb.
White-breasted Nuthatch: typ nums.
Brown Creeper: max 5 Mexico 20 Dec.
Winter Wren: 9 reps var locs mid-Dec to mid-Feb.
Carolina Wren: typ nums locs but a pair winters DH, *intro*.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 5 BLNC 26 Dec; small nums var locs thru 18 Jan.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: scattered reps 6 locs thru.
Eastern Bluebird: max 18 Pulaski 5 Jan.
Hermit Thrush: singles 12 locs var dates; max 2 GLSP & Utica 19 Dec.
American Robin: max est 8000 GLSP 19 Dec, roost flight count, unusual circumstances; typ nums otherwise.
Gray Catbird: Clinton 19 Dec & 6 Jan; Utica 21 Dec; Salisbury 23 Dec, 2 Feb; & DeWitt 19 Dec; New Hartford 15 Jan; max 2 Jville 19 Jan; only reps.
Brown Thrasher: Fruit Valley 19 Feb (EH, ph).
Northern Mockingbird: singles/pairs typ loc, mostly around Syr; max 3 Cazenovia 26 Feb, unusual loc.
European Starling: max est 4000 HI 13 Dec.
Bohemian Waxwing: Sithe 4 Jan; 5 Salisbury 22 Feb; max 13 Salisbury 5 Dec; only reps.
Cedar Waxwing: max 120 SSSP 1 Jan.
House Sparrow: typ nums thru.

Evening Grosbeak: max 85 DeRuyter 29 Dec; irruption year, good nums typ locs thru.
Pine Grosbeak: small nums thru & max 10 Salisbury 6 Jan (KT); 2 Forestport 6 Dec; 2 Erieville 4 Dec, 17 Jan; only reps & fewer than hoped for.
House Finch: max 45 OLP 11 Dec.
Purple Finch: max approx 10 Sheds, var dates; scattered reps typ locs but disappointing at feeders otherwise.
Common Redpoll: est 400 Bville 17 Feb; max est 920 Port Byron 25 Feb; irruption year, exc nums, widespread, many reps.
Hoary Redpoll: scattered reports 12 locs thru; max 6 Port Byron 15 Feb; *intro*.
Red Crossbill: 4 Clinton 16 Feb, unusual loc; flocks continue SH, esp Morgan Hill SF, thru; max 30 Morgan Hill 5 Dec.
White-winged Crossbill: GLSP 3 Dec; Morgan Hill SF 10 Jan; max 11 FH 11 Dec, unusual loc (GD), *intro*; only reps.
Pine Siskin: max 60 Cazenovia 29 Dec; flocks >20 var typ locs incl SH, Dolge; smaller groups widespread thru but generally more scarce than redpolls; *intro*.
American Goldfinch: max 60 Dolge 1 Feb; good nums widespread.
Lapland Longspur: Waterville 18 Dec; Pulaski 16 Jan; max 2 Mexico 20 Jan & Memphis 8 Feb; OswH 4 Feb; only reps.
Snow Bunting: max 300 Fenner 13 Feb & T Richland 6 Jan; good flocks rep var locs thru.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: Granby 20 Dec, 12, 13 Feb (TC); only rep.
American Tree Sparrow: max 100 OLP 31 Jan, 19 Feb; good nums widespread thru.
Chipping Sparrow: max 10 Manheim Center 18 Feb; reported feeding with other sparrows at grain spill (EF), rec num for date (?); Syr 1, 5 Dec (DWe, DD); only reps.
Field Sparrow: OLP 19 Dec (FL); TR 1 Jan (GD); only reps.
Savannah Sparrow: T Richland 3, 5 Jan (MB); max 3 Port Byron 9 Feb (MG); Port Byron 15 Feb (DC); arr SNC 27 Feb (JD); only reps.
Fox Sparrow: last Dolge 9-10 Dec (BLH); Marcellus 16 Dec (KF); arr or winterer Cato 18 Feb (MA); only reps.
Song Sparrow: max 14 OLP 19 Feb; best nums OLP & TR.
Swamp Sparrow: 1-2 TR var dates; 4 other locs var dates.

White-throated Sparrow: max 45 GLSP 11 Dec.

White-crowned Sparrow: 5 Cross Lake 5 Dec thru (CL); 5 Bville 30 Jan; max 6 Bville 31 Jan; several other locs, most birds presumed to winter, more than usual.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 86 Sterling 30 Dec.

Baltimore Oriole: Syr 4 Feb (DD), very rare in winter.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 35 OLP 4 Dec & Fville 30 Dec; small num var locs thru.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 37 Chittenango 22 Feb.

Rusty Blackbird: Chittenango 2-23 Feb (TH); max 3 Elbridge 19 Feb (SS)

Common Grackle: max 8 Syr 20 Dec; a few winter.

Common Yellowthroat: OLP 7 Jan (JMc); only rep.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 4 RRP 28 Dec; max 5 RRP 21 Feb & HI 14 Dec; Elbridge, Bville, SP; only reps but more than usual.

Northern Cardinal: typ nums.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Cassville 17 Dec (TWh); Pulaski 25 Dec – 15 Jan (WV, MB, ph), very rare in winter.

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REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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Temperatures was generally mild, with the mean monthly temperature in Watertown exceeding long-term averages by 3.8° F in December and 2.8° in January. Relatively cold weather finally arrived late in the winter, and February's mean temperature of 18.5° was 2.6° below normal. There were no sustained periods of very cold temperatures this winter, so that large sections of the St. Lawrence River and near-shore Lake Ontario remained open for most or all of the season. Precipitation varied from normal by just 0.05" in December, but was below normal by 1.7" in January and 0.6" in February. Much of the Region saw relatively little snow, and for the first half of the winter what snow fell typically melted quickly, with a consistent snow pack not developing until the second half of the winter in many places.

It was a somewhat strange year for waterfowl. Thanks to mild weather to start the season and the lack of significant ice cover on the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario, duck numbers were fairly high overall. However, ducks were scarce at some locations where they are reliably found most winters, perhaps because the extensive open water didn't force them to concentrate. At the start of the winter good numbers of Gadwall, Northern Pintail, and Ring-necked Duck were still present at Wilson Hill WMA and other locations on the St. Lawrence River downstream where ice would normally have pushed them out by the end of November. Notable ducks included an adult female **King Eider** Nick Leone found at Pillar Point on 2 December and one each first-year male and female King Eider I found with White-winged Scoters at Henderson Harbor on 15 January. The five **Barrow's Goldeneye** seen at four locations was a relatively good tally, many found by Nick Leone, who also found a Common Goldeneye X Hooded

Merganser hybrid at Grass Point State Park on 15 December, and an apparent Common Goldeneye X Barrow's Goldeneye hybrid at Tibbett's Point on 11 February. Nick also saw a female Red-crested Pochard at Millen's Bay on 30 December, likely the same suspected escapee seen by many at Wilson Hill WMA in the fall.

Among the season's rarities was an adult **Great Cormorant** I found on a breakwater in the St. Lawrence River near the Massena-Cornwall bridge on 15 February and likely saw a week earlier when poor viewing conditions prevented certain identification. The cormorant remained until at least 27 February, allowing a number of local birders to see it. Most other waterbirds were present in typical numbers, but gulls were quite disappointing. A few pulses of gulls moved through the St. Lawrence River but seemed to consist almost entirely of Herring Gulls, and white-winged gulls were unusually scarce. For the first winter in many years no Glaucous Gulls were reported at Hawkins Point, which is often the best site for this species in New York State, and this species would have been missed entirely if not for a single report from Lake Ontario. Among the surprises of the season was a Spotted Sandpiper Vanessa Rojas and Steve Stevens saw at Whalen Park on 11 December. Other than the occasional Killdeer shorebirds of any species are rarely seen in Region 6 during winter.

Large numbers of raptors on and near Point Peninsula drew birders from around the state. On 10 January Mike Tetlow and Dominic Sherony carefully counted hawks on Point Peninsula, coming up with 23 Northern Harriers, 21 Red-tailed Hawks, and 55 Rough-legged Hawks. A few concentrations of Rough-legged Hawks were noted elsewhere, most notably more than two dozen on Fort Drum, but generally buteos were more widely scattered away from northwestern Jefferson County. Formerly extremely rare in winter, Red-shouldered Hawks seem to be nearly annual at this season now, with adults in Philadelphia and Lowville in February. American Kestrel also appears to be increasing in winter, and the more than 30 reported this winter seemed exceptionally high; also fairly unusual was the large number that appeared to survive the winter. A **Gyr Falcon**, apparently a juvenile dark morph individual, was observed perched on a large building adjacent to the airfield at Fort Drum on 11 January, but in typical fashion quickly flew off and was not seen again.

It was a good year for Short-eared Owls, with the largest roost on Point Peninsula, where as many as 25 were reported on a NYSDEC survey in late December but more modest numbers were generally seen. At least six Short-eared Owls were on Fort Drum and two more at Perch River, with rumors of additional roosts that lacked details. It was not a particularly big year for Snowy Owls, with a few scattered around the Region and again the largest number at Point Peninsula, where at least five were observed by many.

This winter's songbird list is unusually long for Region 6. Several birds not normally reported in winter were seen at feeders or in yards, most notably a Baltimore Oriole at a Rodman feeder until 13 December, and a Pine Warbler that showed up at a feeder in Denmark on 31 January. Until ten years ago Winter

Wren, Marsh Wren, and Hermit Thrush were considered great Regional rarities in winter, but are now found almost every year, including multiple individuals this winter. The five Winter Wrens and eight Hermit Thrushes reported is high by recent standards, although most of the Winter Wrens were seen in December and not again. Other unusual half-hardies include Gray Catbirds at Westcott Beach State Park and in Massena, a Brown Thrasher in Canton until mid-December, probably the same Eastern Towhee at two locations in Canton about one mile and six days apart in late December and early January, a Chipping Sparrow at a Canton feeder until 10 January, and a White-crowned Sparrow at a Carthage feeder to 26 January.

It was also a good year for irruptive finches. Evening Grosbeak and Common Redpoll were widespread in good numbers. Numerous Hoary Redpoll reports were submitted, of which 19 included photos or convincing details, quite a bit more than during most recent irruptions. Pine Grosbeaks were fairly common in northern St. Lawrence County but were scarce and widely scattered elsewhere. Very few adult male Pine Grosbeaks were observed. Red Crossbills were seen in eight locations and White-winged Crossbill in one location, all in lowland areas outside the Adirondacks. Presumably crossbills nested in the Adirondack portion of St. Lawrence County, but if so they were not detected by any birders.

For the season I received reports of 127 species, the highest winter tally in at least 15 years and ten species higher than the most recent ten-year average. The great diversity of half-hardies, lingering fall migrants, and irruptive finches all contributed to the high species total. The Great Cormorant was probably the bird of the season, but the raptor show on Point Peninsula was certainly the Region's biggest draw. The biggest disappointment was the scarcity of white-winged gulls, especially at Hawkins Point.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

BI – Barnhart I, T Massena, STLA; **BPWMA** – Black Pd WMA; **BRB** – Black River Bay; **CCSP** – Coles Creek SP; **CV** – T Cape Vincent; **FD** – Fort Drum Military Reservation, JEFF & LEWI; **FdIP** – Fort de la Presentation; **FL** – Fisher’s Landing, T Alexandria; **GPSP** – Grass Pt SP; **HH** – Henderson Harbor; **HP** – Hawkins Pt, T Massena; **JEFF** – Jefferson County; **KC** – Kelsey Creek, T Watertown; **KPSP** – Kring Pt SP; **MM** – Massawepie Mire, T Colton & Piercefield, STLA; **MP** – Montario Pt, T Ellisburg; **PilPt** – Pillar Pt, JEFF; **PRWMA** – Perch Ri WMA, JEFF; **PtPen** – Pt Peninsula, T Lyme, JEFF; **RLT** – Richard’s Landing Trail T Massena; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, T Massena; **SBSP** – Southwick Beach SP; **SH** – Sackett’s Harbor; **SLR** – St. Lawrence Ri; **STLA** – St. Lawrence County; **StPt** – Stony Pt, T Henderson, JEFF; **TP** – Tibbetts Pt; **ULLWMA** – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton; **WBSP** – Westcott Beach SP; **WHWMA** – Wilson Hill WMA; **WP** – Whalen P, T Louisville.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 8 reports southbound flocks thru 4 Jan; southbound max 500 2 Jan; singles FdIP 22 Jan & HP 9 Feb only other reports.

Canada Goose: max 4450 SLR T Waddington 24 Dec.

Mute Swan: max 106 FL 13 Feb.

Trumpeter Swan: max 22 ULLWMA 24 Jan; increasing.

Tundra Swan: max 565 PtPen 3 Dec.

Wood Duck: 2 T Watertown 1 Dec (BM) only report.

Gadwall: max 52 RLT 31 Dec;

American Wigeon: max 3 HP 31 Jan; 1-2 each from 3 other locations.

Mallard: max 935 HP 31 Jan.

American Black Duck: max 98 WP 13 Dec.

Northern Pintail: max 36 WP 1 Jan where last 9 Jan.

Green-winged Teal: max 5 WHWMA 13 Dec.

Canvasback: max 6 HH 29 Dec.

Redhead: max 1400 Millens Bay 30 Dec.

Ring-necked Duck: 400 WHWMA to 5 Dec; 35 StPt 15 Jan only other report of more than one; last WHWMA 31 Jan.

Greater Scaup: max 230 StPt 15 Jan.

Lesser Scaup: max 13 PtPen 16 Jan.

King Eider: ad f PilPt 2 Dec (NL); 1st year m & f HH 15 Jan (JB).

Surf Scoter: f T Watertown 5 Jan (BM) only report.

White-winged Scoter: max 64 HH 15 Jan.

Black Scoter: max 4 CCSP 4 Dec & MP 8 Dec.

Long-tailed Duck: max 620 MP 15 Jan.

Bufflehead: max 49 PtPen 1 Jan.

Common Goldeneye: max 1500-2000 FL early Jan.

Common Goldeneye X Hooded Merganser: GPSP 15 Dec (NL).

Barrow’s Goldeneye: m & f S tip PtPen 1 Dec (NL); ad m isthmus PtPen 1-10 Jan (NL, BM); f FL 10 Jan & 18 Feb (JB, NL); ad m FL 14 Jan (RB).

Barrow’s Goldeneye X Common Goldeneye: ad m TP 11 Feb (NL).

Hooded Merganser: max 65 RMSP 27 Dec.

Common Merganser: max 2600 RLT 27 Dec.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 405 HH 19 Dec.

Ruddy Duck: 4 Dexter Marsh 12 Dec only report.

Spruce Grouse: MM 6 & 14 Dec only reports.

Pied-billed Grebe: BRB late Dec (NL).

Horned Grebe: max 3 PtPen 5 Dec; last WBSP 19 Dec.

Red-necked Grebe: MP 15 Jan (JB) only report.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

American Coot: 12 WHWMA to 5 Dec (high for winter) only report.

Spotted Sandpiper: WP 11 Dec (VR, SS) very rare in winter.

Bonaparte’s Gull: 5 T Lyme 5 Dec only report.

Ring-billed Gull: last PtPen 23 Jan until arr BI 28 Feb.

Herring Gull: max 1000 BI 17 Jan; numbers low most of winter.

Iceland Gull: SLR T Massena 27 Dec & MoP 3 Jan only reports.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: ad SLR T Massena 17 Jan only report.

Glaucous Gull: SBSP 3 Dec only report; none HP & RMSP where usually present.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 228 HP 27 Dec.

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: 2 BRB 5 & 19 Dec only reports.

Common Loon: max 5 BI 19 Dec; PtPen 14 Feb only report after 18 Jan.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 11 HH 6 Dec; 5 KPSP 10 Jan high for Jan; last 3 SLR Massena 18 Jan.

GREAT CORMORANT (R6): ad SLR T Massena 15-27 Feb (JB, mob) rare R6.

Great Blue Heron: reports from 13 locations throughout season.

Northern Harrier: max 23 PtPen 10 Jan where unusually common thru; few reports away from NW JEFF.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: 18 reports.

Cooper's Hawk: 40 reports.

Northern Goshawk: T Louisville 24 Dec & FD 7 Jan only reports.

Bald Eagle: common & widespread even by recent standards; max 17 T Martinsburg 11 Feb.

Red-shouldered Hawk: T Philadelphia 8 Feb (JB) & T Lowville 16 Feb (MR); rare but increasing in winter.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 21 PtPen 10 Jan.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 55 PtPen 10 Jan; 21-27/day FD thru.

Eastern Screech-Owl: 8 reports all but 1 W JEFF more than usual.

Snowy Owl: up to 5/day PtPen; few away from NW JEFF.

Short-eared Owl: as many as 25 PtPen late Dec but 4-11/day more typical thru (mob); 2 PRWMA 9 Feb (IM); 6 FD 7 Jan (JB).

Belted Kingfisher: CV thru (DM); FD thru at least 4 Feb (JB); KPSP 18 Dec (BP).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: KC thru 19 Feb; FD 1 Feb; T Rutland 14 Feb.

Northern Flicker: max 4 CV 10 Jan; singles from 17 other locations.

American Kestrel: max 1-3/day PtPen thru; reports from more than 30 other locations; high.

Merlin: reports from 15 locations about average for recent years.

GYRFALCON: presumed juv dark morph perched on building adjacent to FD airfield 11 Jan (JB).

Peregrine Falcon: BI & T Watertown thru; 8 additional reports; increasing.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Northern Shrike: reports from about 30 locations modestly higher than previous 3-4 years.

Horned Lark: max 38 CV 27 Jan.

Tufted Titmouse: 150+ reports from 30+ locations; continuing to increase.

Winter Wren: Kip Trail T Canton thru 3 Jan (JB); BPWMA 6 Dec (BB); Muskellunge Bay & WBSP 19 Dec (JB); T Watertown 25 Jan to 2 Feb (LS); increasing in winter although rare after Jan.

Marsh Wren: 2 PRWMA 19 Dec (JB); rare but increasing in winter.

Carolina Wren: reports from 8 locations more than recent years.

Eastern Bluebird: max 8 T Canton 28 Jan; reports from 16 additional locations.

Hermit Thrush: max 2 T Clayton 21 Feb (RB); 6 additional reports all JEFF high for winter.

American Robin: max 75 T Watertown 6 Feb; modest numbers throughout.

Gray Catbird: WBSP 18 Dec (NL); T Massena 3 Jan (HE); rare in winter.

Brown Thrasher: T Canton thru 17 Dec; rare in winter.

European Starling: max 1100 CV 16 Dec.

Bohemian Waxwing: max 130 RMSP 15 Feb; 6 other reports of 15 or fewer.

Cedar Waxwing: max 140 RMSP 23 Feb; generally low numbers throughout.

American Pipit: RLT 27 Dec (BM, JS) rare in winter.

Evening Grosbeak: max 60 T Constableville 24 Dec; many reports throughout.

Pine Grosbeak: max 20 T Carthage 13 Jan; about 65 reports mostly STLA; very few adult males reported.

Purple Finch: scarce thru.

Common Redpoll: max 800 T Lyme 10 Jan; widespread in modest numbers with a few large flocks.

Hoary Redpoll: 19 reports with photos or reasonable descriptions; high.

Red Crossbill: max 12 T Croghan 16 Jan & T Potsdam 6 Feb; 6 other reports all from lowland areas.

White-winged Crossbill: RMSP 4 Jan (AB) only report.
Pine Siskin: max 24 T Clayton 13 Feb; generally modest numbers.
American Goldfinch: max 36 T Hammond 22 Feb.
Lapland Longspur: max 15 CV 7 Jan.
Snow Bunting: max 165 T Massena 15 Feb.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: different locations about 1-mile apart T Canton 29 Dec (JB) & 4 Jan (EJS)
Chipping Sparrow: T Canton thru 10 Jan (BB); rare in winter.
Savannah Sparrow: FD 11 Dec (JB); T Ellisburg 19 Dec (JB); PtPen 29 Dec (SH, JLC); last T Leray 7 Jan (JB); more than usual for winter.
Song Sparrow: reported from 13 locations; a little below average.
Swamp Sparrow: Muskellunge Bay 19 Dec (JB); FD 7 & 11 Jan (JB); only reports.

White-throated Sparrow: max 21 T Watertown 13 Feb.
White-crowned Sparrow: T West Carthage feeder thru 26 Jan (RH) rare in winter.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 29 Burnham Pt SP 13 Feb; widespread in mostly small flocks.
Eastern Meadowlark: T Watertown 1 Jan (RB) only report.
Baltimore Oriole: T Rodman feeder thru 13 Dec (HH) rare in winter.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 7 StPt 15 Jan; 5 additional reports.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 6 T Watertown 22 Jan; T Rutland 14 Feb only other report.
Common Grackle: max 7 T Canton feeder 29 Jan (JR) where 1 5 Feb; 8 other reports.
Pine Warbler: T Denmark feeder 31 Jan (MR) very rare in winter.

EXOTICS

Red-crested Pochard: f Millens Bay 30 Dec (NL).

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REGION 7 – ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Temperatures in December continued the warming observed in November. The bulk of Region 7 was 3°-5° F warmer than normal. The exceptions were a strip along the border with Canada which was 5°-7° warmer than average and an area which included Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, and most of Hamilton County that was only 1°-3° warmer. Precipitation (melted equivalent) in the northern half of the Region measured 2"-3" except for a nearly circular area around Lyon Mountain and Averill Peak where it was 3"-4". Most of Hamilton County and the High Peaks area recorded 5"-6".

Winter storm John ushered in January with 6"-8" of snow over the first two days. Overall most of the region got 1"-2" of melted precipitation in the month. The exceptions were the eastern two thirds of Essex, the southwest corner of Franklin County, and an area astride the Clinton/Franklin County border which got 2"-3". Lyon Mountain and environs were the wettest with 3"-4" for the month.

Temperatures for the month averaged 3°-5° above normal in the north of Region 7 with a segment along the border with Canada that was 5°-7° above normal. Most of Essex County was only 1°-3° above normal. The southern two thirds Hamilton County, only 1°-3° warmer than average, was the coolest.

Winter storm Orlena opened the month of February dumping 15"-17" of snow in the upper Lake Champlain Valley. Surprisingly the snowfall totals ranged from 2"-5" in the southern portions of Region 7. The next winter storm to impact the Region was Uri which left 5"-6" in the Lake Champlain Valley on 16-17 February. The difference in Orlena's snowfall totals, north and south, is reflected in a comparison of the overall precipitation totals for the month. The northern half of Region 7 recorded 2"-3" while the southern half only 1"-2". Temperatures in February ended the three month warmer-than-average period. The warmest section of the Region was an area that included the north of Hamilton and the south of Franklin Counties where the average was within a degree either way of normal. The balance of Region 7 was 1°-3° below normal for the month, except for the High Peaks area which was 3°-5° below normal.

The water level of Lake Champlain began the winter season at just a fraction above 94'. At this level an extensive gravel bar was exposed at the mouth of the Saranac River. This and the warm effluent from the sewage treatment plant attracted large numbers of larids and waterfowl including both white-winged gulls and Barrow's Goldeneye. On at least one occasion a Peregrine Falcon found the numbers inviting. However, in winter the timing and extent of ice coverage has a greater effect on avian activity than the lake level.

Once again Lake Champlain did not ice over completely. This was surely due to the exceptionally warm December and January noted above. Ice was also later than normal in forming in the bays and upper and lower ends of the lake. Thus the lake was nearly ice free for the annual waterfowl count in mid-January. The shallow bay to the north and east of Ausable Point did not ice over permanently. The resulting open water provided suitable forage for Bald Eagles throughout the season. A Belted Kingfisher was present into March, and a Great Blue Heron was reported as late as the last week of January. Bluebirds also overwintered. To the south the ice didn't reach Westport until early February. The edge of the ice was an active spot for waterfowl, including Barrow's Goldeneye, Tufted Duck, and Red-throated Loon. Two Northern Pintail lingered at least to the end of the season even as the open area contracted when the temperatures returned to seasonal values.

The Winter Finch Forecast (WFF) suggested that this would not be a flight year for Pine Grosbeak. After a modest showing in the fall this winter produced nearly 50 records with a maximum 36 individuals. Red Crossbills, predicted to drift south, were reported dozens of times with a maximum of 42. Expected to stay west, White-winged Crossbill was reported fewer than two dozen times. Though a moderate to good flight was expected for Common Redpoll, the season for this species was astonishing. The tremendous numbers of redpolls were difficult at times to comprehend with the vast majority of sightings taking place

in the Champlain Valley lowlands, mostly from Willsboro south to Westport. Most agricultural lands with suitable seed crops hosted hundreds, if not thousands of redpolls. Multiple reports of a thousand or more birds were filed with a maximum of 2,250 individuals along Sayre Road in Wadhams at the Art Farm. This huge crush of redpolls were feeding on many acres of hemp seeds, and they persisted here in large numbers throughout much of the second half of the season. Among these flocks as many as twenty Hoary Redpolls were extrapolated based on a ratio of 1 Hoary Redpoll per 100 Common Redpolls, many of which were photographed by several observers. And there were dozens of individual Hoary reports from widely scattered locations throughout Region 7, but mostly in the Champlain Valley. As a bonus, subspecies of both **Common Redpoll**, *rostrata* (max eight), and **Hoary Redpoll**, *hornemanni* (max two), were reported. There were more than a dozen sightings of the former and four of the latter, some with photos. To put it in technical terms redpolls of all types were all over the place. Pine Siskin, expected to move south in small numbers, was reported fewer than three dozen times with a maximum of 30. Up to 80 Evening Grosbeaks were noted in nearly two dozen reports. The WFF suggested Bohemian Waxwing “will most likely stay north”. This winter there were fewer than 20 reports, though numbers as high as 90 individuals were recorded.

Tufted Duck has been seen on the NY side of Lake Champlain every year since 2013 except 2015. This winter it was present in the Crown Point area from late December to 12 February. On that day and the day after it was found about ten miles north, suggesting the latter was the same bird moving north. An adult **Golden Eagle** was photographed extensively as it was mobbed by a Bald Eagle. The hostile interaction included the Golden Eagle at times flying inverted with its talons extended. After a prolonged stay in spring 2020 and a second appearance for a day in November, **Say’s Phoebe** was present at Crown Point for a nine day encore from the end of December into January. It seems highly unlikely that three individuals were involved.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AFT – Art Farm Trail; **AHR** – Angier Hill Rd; **AM** – Ausable Marsh; **AP** – Ausable Pt; **APN** – Ausable Pt, north of entrance; **AR** – Anfier Hill Rd; **BaR** – Bay Rd, Plattsburgh; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog; **BEC** – Bellmont Center; **BHT** – Blueberry Hill Trail; **BP** – Bicentennial P; **BRd** – Burdick Rd, ESSE; **BRR** – Bull Rock Rd; **CB** – Cole Bay; **CDR** – Camp Dudley Rd; **CH** – Cumberland Head; **ChP** – Cheney Pd; **ChR** – Christian Rd; **CP** – Crown Pt; **CR** – Chazy Riverlands; **CRd** – Cross Rd; **CZ** – Chazy; **DRd** – Delano Rd; **DyR** – Duprey Rd; **EC** – Essex County; **Es** – Essex; **FWC** – Fisk Rd., West Chazy; **HBO** – Hoisington Brook Outlet; **HBr** – Halfway Brook; **Ke** – Keeseville; **LCI** – Lake Clear; **LCo** – Lake Colby; **LP** – Lake Placid; **MB** – Monty’s Bay; – McCaughen Rd; **MEC** – Middle Rd, ESSE; **MM** – Maple Meadows; **MR** – Moffitt Rd; **MTE** – Military Turnpike Extension; **NP** – Noblewood P; **NRd** – Nappier Rd; **OPR** – Oregon Plains Rd; **PB** – Plattsburgh; **PBy** – Plattsburgh Bay; **PD** – Port Douglas; **PH** – Port Henry; **PL** – Plattsburgh; **PP** – Pine Pd; **PS** – Paul Smiths; **PtR** – Point Au Roche SP; **RRd** – Reynolds Rd; **SB** – Sandy Beach; **SF** – Schuyler Falls; **SL** – Saranac L; **SP** – Santanoni Pres; **SRM** – Saranac Ri Mouth; **SRWF** – Split Rock Wild Forest; **TB** – Trombly Bay; **TFBL** – Ticonderoga Ferry and Boat Launch; **TI** – Ticonderoga; **TRd** – Trimble Rd, ESSE; **WB** – Wallons Bay; **WBR** – Wallons Bay Rd; **WD** – Wilcox Dock; **WRF** – Willsboro Research Farm; **WP** – Westport; **WPG** – Westport Grasslands.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 75,000 MB 20 Dec (AB); 7 RRd 13 Feb (BB, late).

Ross’s Goose: MB 20 Dec (AB).

Snow x Ross’s Goose hybrid: MB 20 Dec (AB).

Greater White-fronted Goose: TB 10 Dec (SR), ph; PBy 29 Dec (AB).

Cackling Goose: CH 22 Dec (BK).

Gadwall: 3 HB 23 Dec (SR).

Northern Pintail: MM 22 Dec (SR); HB 2 -26 Feb (SR, mo).

Green-winged Teal: MB 27 Jan (BW).

Redhead: 6 APN 28 Dec (SR).

Ring-necked Duck: 10 WP 11 Feb (JG).

TUFTED DUCK: CP 24 Dec-12 Feb (SR, mo); SB 17- 24 Jan (SR); HB 12-13 Feb (AB, RB, SR).

Greater Scaup: 750 WP 14 Feb (SR).

Lesser Scaup: 1500 WP 14 Feb (SR).

Scaup sp: 1950 CP 3 Jan (SR).

White-winged Scoter: LP 12 Dec (OS).

Black Scoter: LCI 8 Dec (SMc); HB 11-12 Feb (SR, RB), late.

Long-tailed Duck: 2 SB 17 Jan (SR).

Bufflehead: 119 NP 7 Dec (SR).

Common Goldeneye: 535 CP 1 Jan (SR).

Barrow’s Goldeneye: APN 23 Dec (KMc); SRM 6 Feb (JH); 9 HB 11 Feb (SR), max.

Hooded Merganser: 25 CB 27 Jan (TL).

Common Merganser: 39 PtR 20 Dec (AB).

Red-breasted Merganser: 5 CP 31 Dec (SR).

Ruddy Duck: CP 24 Dec (SR).

Ring-necked Pheasant: 3 WB 28 Dec (SR).

Ruffed Grouse: 6 PD 21 Jan (OS).

Wild Turkey: 32 CZ 11 Dec (JB); 42 CRd 26 Dec (SR).

Pied-billed Grebe: PH 22 Due (JS).

Horned Grebe: 6 WB 22 Dec (RB); 2 HB 6 Feb (MCp).

Red-necked Grebe: WP 22 Dec (JS, BMc, JB).

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Killdeer: arr. CB 20 Feb (IW); CH 24 Feb (SJ), early Clin.

Bonaparte’s Gull: 3 NP 2 Dec (GC).

Herring Gull: SRM 21 Dec (SR).

Iceland Gull: MTE 5 Dec (SR); GBM 6 Dec (JB); 2 SRM 7 Jan (SR); NP 17 Jan (DHR); HBO 29 Jan (TL, SW).

Glaucous Gull: SRM 28 Dec (SR).

Great Black-backed Gull: 65 SRM 10 Dec (JB).

Herring X Great Black-backed Gull: NP 31 Dec - 17 Jan (SR, DHR); HBO 13 Jan (SR); AM 18 Feb (SR).

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: CP 27 Dec (JK); HB 31 Jan (BMc), late.

Common Loon: 5 WP 18 Feb (SR).

Double-crested Cormorant: HB 12 Dec (JS).

Great Blue Heron: CB 17 Dec (SR); 29 Dec-23 Jan (AB, DR, mo).

Black Vulture: 6 BP 24 Dec (SR); 15 TI 23 Jan -24 Feb (SR, mo), cont.

Turkey Vulture: MEC 10 Dec (SR).

GOLDEN EAGLE: BRd 31 Jan (EG), photos.

Northern Harrier: MR 29 Dec (AB).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: CH 31 Dec (SJ).

Cooper's Hawk: PL 14 Feb (JH).

Northern Goshawk: SWF 18 Dec (DHR); HBr 3 Jan (JS); Es 17 Feb (DHR).

Bald Eagle: 3 CH 28 Jan (SJ).

Red-shouldered Hawk: SF 19 Jan (DD), ph.

Red-tailed Hawk: 4 DRd 18 Jan (SR).

Rough-legged Hawk: 3 WPG 31 Dec (SW).

Eastern Screech Owl: AR 19 Dec (GC); 2 CB 8 Feb (RB).

Great Horned Owl: CH 5 Dec (SJ); 2 EC 19 Dec (SR).

Snowy Owl: PD 13 Feb (SJ).

Barred Owl: 3 Es 26 Feb (G&MC).

Short-eared Owl: 2 MEC 4 Dec - 11 Jan (DHR, mob); WRF 10 Dec (DHR); WBR 19 Jan (DHR), ph.

Belted Kingfisher: AP 21 Dec-28 Feb (SR, DR, mo).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 3 BRR 31 Dec (G&MC).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: BRR 3 Jan-14 Feb (G&MC).

Black-backed Woodpecker: 3 ChP 14 Jan (GC).

Northern Flicker: 4 TFBL 12 Dec (SR); BRd 14 Feb (MC).

Pileated Woodpecker: 2 SP 11 Dec (G&MC).

American Kestrel: EC 5 Jan (LM); WP 28 Jan (TL).

Merlin: CP 4 Jan (ZC).

Peregrine Falcon: ESSE 12 Jan (BMc, JS); HB 28 Jan (SR).

FLYCATCHERS – SNOWBUNTING

SAY'S PHOEBE: CP 26 Dec-4 Jan (RB, GC, JE, mo).

Northern Shrike: several reps at traditional locs.

Canada Jay: 10 BB 22 Feb (DM).

Blue Jay: 21 BRR 26 Dec (G&MC).

Fish Crow: WD 5 Dec (BK).

Common Raven: 15 BRR 26 Dec (G&MC).

Horned Lark: 130 CP 2 Jan (SR).

Boreal Chickadee: 5 Jay 13 Dec (MM).

Tufted Titmouse: 6 CH 20 Dec (NO).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 12 BB 28 Feb (S&JB).

White-breasted Nuthatch: 5 SL 28 Feb (JS).

Brown Creeper: WP 18 Feb (SR).

Winter Wren: MM 2 Jan (SR).

Carolina Wren: 2 CH 1 Dec-28 Feb (NO).

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 3 PP 3 Jan (RC).

Hermit Thrush: WP 19 Dec (RB).

Gray Catbird: WP 13 Dec (RB).

Northern Mockingbird: SRM 4 Dec-17 Feb (mo).

Bohemian Waxwing: 41 BEC 8 Dec (SR); 90 WP 3 Feb (DC), max.

Cedar Waxwing: 80 WP 15 Feb (SR).

Evening Grosbeak: 80 WP 17 Dec (SR), max.

Pine Grosbeak: widespread with reps in all 4 counties; max 36 WP 2 Dec (DHR).

Common Redpoll: max 2250 AFT 12 Jan (DHR); widespread throughout Region.

Common Redpoll (*rostrata/islandica*): AHR 2 30 Dec (SW); ChR 30 Dec- 13 Feb (mob); WBR 2 Jan (SW); CP 13 Jan (GC); 2 Jan (SW); WPt 28 -31 Jan (DHR); BaR 29 Jan (TL); BB 26 Feb (RM).

Hoary Redpoll: reps in all 4 counties; 60 ESSE, 8 CLIN, 4 FRAN, 1 HAMI.

Hoary Redpoll (*hornemanni*): DyR 10 Jan (GC); AFT 27 Jan (SW); 2 AHR 30 Jan (SW); 2 BaR 29 Jan (TL, SW).

Red Crossbill: 12 PS 5 Jan (BMc, JS, JB); 42 OPR 22 Feb (ZC), max.

Red Crossbill (type 10): CP 25 Feb (SR), rec'ing.

White-winged Crossbill: widespread; 35 CB 3 Jan (KMc), max.

Pine Siskin: 9 PB 21 Dec (JK); 30 WB 18 Jan (SR), max.

Lapland Longspur: 8 FWC 8 Dec (GFG).

Snow Bunting: 50 CR 10 Dec (SR).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

American Tree Sparrow: 30 AFT 17 Jan (SW).

Field Sparrow: Peru 1 Jan (KC), late, ph.

Savannah Sparrow: RRd 9 Jan (AB), late.

Fox Sparrow: SL 1 Dec (AB).

Song Sparrow: McC 11 Jan (SR); 2 Peru 18 Feb (HC).
Swamp Sparrow: APN 21 Dec (SR), late.
White-throated Sparrow: 3 SL 15 Dec (AB).
Red-winged Blackbird: SL 15 Dec (AB), late; arr. CH 14 Feb (BB) .

Brown-headed Cowbird: 30 DRd 2 Jan (GC).
Northern Cardinal: 11 WP 6 Jan (JS).

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REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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	Albany			Glens Falls		
Temp	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Dec	29.9°	28.5°	+1.4°	27.6°	25.0°	+2.6°
Jan	23.3°	22.6°	+0.7°	22.1°	18.0°	+4.1°
Feb	23.7°	25.9°	-2.2°	21.7°	21.3°	+0.4°

Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Dec	3.70"	2.93"	+0.77"	1.68"	3.05"	-1.37"
Jan	1.85"	2.59"	-0.74"	1.54"	2.86"	-1.32"
Feb	1.78"	2.20"	-0.42"	1.70"	2.08"	-0.38"

The weather in December 2020 featured slightly above normal temperatures, and wetter than normal conditions. A massive storm on 16-17 December dropped 22.9" of snow at Albany, and the four-day period from 16-19 December averaged 15° F below normal. Remarkably, the weather warmed substantially by Christmas Eve, and Christmas day had a high of 63° at Albany with nearly one inch of rainfall. Virtually all the snow melted at lower elevations, and severe flooding occurred throughout many areas. January 2021 was rather tranquil, with no arctic cold until the last three days of the month, only 12.1" of snow, and dry conditions overall. February had regular light snowfalls, enough to keep the ground covered until the end of the month, but offered no extreme weather.

The major event of the season continued to be the winter finch incursion. Common Redpolls were seemingly everywhere one looked and listened. By late January reports of a few Hoary Redpolls were received, generally seen at feeders but also in the field among large groups of Common Redpolls. Observations of Red Crossbills also became commonplace, and White-winged Crossbills were noted in many places as well, including suburban yards. Pine Siskins, normally a welcomed winter sighting, were ever-present but relegated to background status.

Evening and Pine Grosbeaks also continued in lower numbers, in more select locations.

Waterfowl were of the typical variety and number. A Greater White-fronted Goose spent much of January around the Stillwater area in Saratoga and Rensselaer Counties. A Eurasian Wigeon was spotted near the Vischer Ferry Power Plant in Saratoga County by John Hershey's group, while they were conducting the Schenectady Christmas Bird Count in that sector; nice bird for the count. Redhead ducks were reported in just a few spots, mostly during February, along the Mohawk River in Albany and Montgomery Counties.

On the gull front, it seemed that at least one adult and one immature Iceland Gull spent much of the winter in the Cohoes-Waterford-Crescent corridor of the Mohawk River. Glaucous Gull was also reported from that area, as well as later in the season from the Hudson River near Albany. Similarly, at least one adult and two immature Lesser Black-backed Gulls were sighted along the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers in Albany County.

Red-throated Loons were observed in both Saratoga County (Gansevoort and Crescent) and Fulton County (Broadalbin) in the first week of December. A few Common Loons were seen in the Hudson River corridor up until Christmas week, with spotty reports thereafter from Lake George (Warren) and Stockport (Columbia).

At least one Golden Eagle spent much of the winter in Washington County, being reported and photographed by several observers. One or two birds also were noted from southern Columbia County, as has become the norm in recent years. Rough-legged Hawks were seen in typical numbers in favored habitat.

Only a couple of Snowy Owls were detected this winter, one in the Fort Edward area of Washington County, the other from Berne in Albany County. As many as six Short-eared Owls were present in the Germantown area (Wire Road) of Columbia County this season, which represents a new location for that species. The Fort Edward Grasslands stronghold in Washington County had up to twenty-four Short-eared Owls reported this winter, which is encouraging.

Northern Shrike numbers seemed to be down this winter, with only a half-dozen reports. It is not entirely clear if observer effort factored into this, however.

Overwintering sparrows included a hearty Clay-colored Sparrow that spent much of the season coming to a feeder in the city of Albany. White-crowned and Savannah Sparrows were seen in typical numbers in their favored locations in Washington, Saratoga, Albany, Rensselaer, and Columbia Counties.

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was photographed at a feeder in Washington County on 3 January.

Dr. Bill Cook writes in his January 2021 monthly summary, which is included in *The Warbler*, the Alan Devoe Bird Club publication:

“SHORT-EARED OWL and LAPLAND LONGSPUR which were “rumors” last month have materialized. I am jumping the gun a bit with the owl because the sightings by club members didn't actually begin until early February. But a longspur was found by David Harrison, a Schenectady birder, in northern Columbia County at the end of January. These

winter visitors have probably been regulars in Columbia County over the years but simply overlooked in the past. The increased efforts of a new cadre of dedicated birders has significantly improved the county coverage.

Climate change may also be playing a role in some changes that we see. Zach Schwartz-Weinstein suggests that the **60 plus** Rusty Blackbirds which are wintering on Trout Brook Road in Copake is climatically “disconcerting”. Will Raup believes that this flock might be a Region 8 winter maximum.

As far as winter finches go, lots of **Common Redpolls** are being found, Will Yandik reported a **Pine Siskin**, but no crossbills went on record this month. Only Roberta Bernstein reported a **Purple Finch** at her feeder. **Snow Bunting** searches were successful mostly in the northern part of the county and a **Northern Shrike** was found along the Hudson River at Hudson.

The **Eastern Towhee** is still hanging around Will Yandik’s feeder. Towhees do winter on Long Island, but they have rarely been found in Columbia County in the winter. **Common Loon** and **Fox Sparrow** have also lingered longer than usual and a very white **leucistic Red-tailed Hawk** is wintering along Black Grocery Road in Copake. Eagles are hardly worth mentioning anymore but Marian Sole found **49** Bald Eagles along the Hudson River as well as occupied nests on the 10th. Further, she and Mike Nicosia continue to find **Golden Eagles** in Copake and Germantown.”

Bob Yunick submitted his field notes for the winter season, excerpted here:

“The following are observations from my feeding/banding operations in the Schenectady NY area: **2)** my Adirondack feeding/banding operation at Jenny Lake (**JL**) at 1250 ft elevation near Corinth in northern Saratoga Co, NY.

2) Intense Black-capped Chickadee irruption at Jenny Lake. Beginning in Aug 2020, there was a faint glimmer of an irruption. By the end of Nov. 2020, 21 chickadees had been captured (20 banded and 1 return capture from a previous year). The irruption seemed to fizzle out in Dec. when only 3 new chickadees were banded but come Jan a drastic change occurred as follows. These capture results are based on operating 2 ½ mist nets for 3-3½ hrs per banding session.

Date	No. Banded	No. Returns	No. Repeats	Total Captures
12/21/20	3	0	4	7
1/1/21	8	1	4	13
1/12/21	33	4	3	40
1/19/21	37	4	19	60
2/4/21	44	2	18	64
2/11/21	25	4	44	73
2/18/21	17	0	36	53
2/26/21	24	2	44	70

Total captures from 8/9/20 to 2/28/21 = 229 (212 banded, 17 returns). Age distribution on newly banded birds was 88.2% imm/ 11.8% ad. Age distribution for all 229 birds captured was 81.7% imm/ 18.3% ad.

Sunflower seed consumption closely tracked the trend in captures. Nov/Dec consumption averaged 100-200 g/day, rising to ~300 g/day by late Dec. In Jan, it

skyrocketed to 1400 g/dy by 1/19/21, peaked at 1850 g/day on 2/4/21, remaining above 1500 g/day through Feb. I’ve burned through 180 lbs. of black oil sunflower seed Dec-Feb.

Based on 50 years of monitoring these irruptions at JL, this year’s pattern was unusual. Typically, bird numbers and seed consumption rise in Oct/Nov with the greatest influx in Dec, peaking in Jan and declining in later Jan as increasing daylight prompts birds to begin their “fee-bee” territorial calls and depart to their breeding areas. This season, the main influx occurred in Jan/Feb, not Dec/Jan, and the season’s highest capture totals persisted through Feb which is unusual.

Along with this irruption of chickadees, there were smaller irruptions of **Red-breasted Nuthatches and Tufted Titmice.**”

Species	No. Banded by Month								
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Total
RBNU	1	7	3	3	1	2	2	11	30
TUTI					5	2	5	3	15

In Region 8, 132 species were reported during the period.

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ABBREVIATIONS

APBP – Albany Pine Bush Pres, ALBA; **AR** – Alcove Res, ALBA; **BCM** – Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; **BCR** – Basic Creek Res, ALBA; **BMB** – Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail, SARA; **CCGP** – Cocksackie Creek Grasslands Pres, GREE; **CF** – Cohoes Flats, ALBA; **CL** – Collins L, SCHE; **CRM** – Cline Rd. Marsh, FULT; **FR** – Five Rivers EEC, ALBA; **FtEG** – Ft. Edward Grasslands, WASH; **FV** – Franklinton Vlaie, SCHO; **HP** – Huyck Pres, ALBA; **OCA** – Ooms Conservation Area, COLU; **PRWMA** – Partridge Run WMA, ALBA; **SNHP** – Saratoga National Historical P, SARA; **TR** – Tomhannock Res, RENN; **VFNHP** – Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Pres, SARA; **WMP** – Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary, COLU.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: max 800 Coxsackie GREE 23 Dec.
Greater White-fronted Goose: Schaghticoke RENS 8 Jan.
Mute Swan: max 4 BCR 4 Dec.
Wood Duck: max 14 Halfmoon SARA 28 Feb.
Northern Shoveler: max 5 Cohoes ALBA 1 Dec.
Gadwall: max 26 Stanton Pd ALBA 7 Dec.
Eurasian Wigeon: VFNHP 19-21 Dec.
American Wigeon: max 26 BCR 4 Dec.
Mallard: max 750 Fonda MONT 6 Feb.
American Black Duck: max 294 Mindenville MONT 13 Feb.
Northern Pintail: max 12 Halfmoon SARA 21 Jan.
Green-winged Teal: max 18 TR 8 Dec.
Redhead: max 4 Crescent Power Plant 19 Feb.
Ring-necked Duck: max 250 Loughberry L SARA 10 Dec.
Greater Scaup: max 6 Loughberry L SARA 6 Dec.
Lesser Scaup: max 200 Loughberry L SARA 15 Dec.
White-winged Scoter: 2 Saratoga L SARA 3 Dec; 2 L George WARR 4 Dec; 2 Copake L 7 Dec.
Black Scoter: 6 Saratoga L SARA 6 Dec.
Long-tailed Duck: Ft Edward WASH 1 Jan; Amsterdam MONT 4 Jan; Stillwater SARA 24 Jan.
Bufflehead: max 44 Saratoga L SARA 18 Dec.
Common Goldeneye: max 200 Stillwater SARA 14 Feb.
Hooded Merganser: max 195 Stillwater SARA 14 Feb.
Common Merganser: max 1000 TR 13 Dec.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 4 Saratoga L SARA 18 Dec.
Ruddy Duck: max 167 BCR 4 Dec.
Wild Turkey: max 133 Northumberland SARA 7 Jan.
Pied-billed Grebe: Athens GREE 4 Dec; Troy RENS 19 Jan.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Killdeer: arr 3 Livingston COLU 26 Feb.
American Woodcock: arr 2 Livingston COLU 27 Feb.
Wilson's Snipe: arr Schaghticoke RENS 27 Feb.
Bonaparte's Gull: Overlook P Cohoes ALBA 5 Dec.

Ring-billed Gull: max 500 Waterford SARA 10 Jan.
Herring Gull: max 500 Colonie ALBA 19 Jan.
Iceland Gull: Cohoes ALBA 4 Dec.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 2 Cohoes ALBA 1 Jan.
Glaucous Gull: Cohoes ALBA 27 Dec; Rensselaer RENS 19 Jan.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 78 Cohoes ALBA 13 Feb.

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: Broadalbin FULT 1 Dec; Gansevoort SARA 1 Dec; Halfmoon SARA 4 Dec.
Common Loon: last 4 Hague WARR 24 Jan.
Double-crested Cormorant: last Catskill GREE 15 Dec.
Great Blue Heron: max 3 Niskayuna SCHE 4 Dec; 3 Livingston COLU 21 Dec.
Black Vulture: max 63 Albany ALBA 13 Jan.
Turkey Vulture: mig arr Livingston COLU 11 Feb; a few birds overwintered in scattered loc.
Golden Eagle: max 2 Copake COLU 7 Jan.
Northern Harrier: max 7 Coxsackie GREE 12 Jan; 7 FtEG 12 Jan.
Bald Eagle: max 27 Germantown COLU 30 Dec.
Rough-legged Hawk: arr FtEG 6 Dec; max 6 FtEG 25 Jan.
Eastern Screech-Owl: max 3 FR 9 Dec.
Great Horned Owl: max 3 Ballston Lake SARA 30 Dec.
Snowy Owl: FtEG 29 Dec; Berne ALBA 13 Jan.
Barred Owl: max 2 mult loc.
Short-eared Owl: max 24 FtEG 31 Jan.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 10 Livingston COLU 21 Dec.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 4 Troy RENS 20 Dec.
Northern Flicker: max 4 Cambridge WASH 13 Dec.
Pileated Woodpecker: max 6 Livingston COLU 21 Dec.
American Kestrel: max 2 mult loc.
Merlin: 2 Meads Ln ALBA 24 Feb.
Peregrine Falcon: max 2 mult loc.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Eastern Phoebe: last FR 23 Dec.
Northern Shrike: Stuyvesant COLU 19 Dec; Kinderhook COLU 31 Dec; Queensbury

WARR 4 Jan; Putnam WASH 5 Jan; FtEG 9 Jan; Schodack RENS 18 Feb.
Blue Jay: max 46 Grafton RENS 5 Feb.
American Crow: est 10,000 Troy RENS 14 Jan.
Fish Crow: max 60 Colonie ALBA 26 Dec.
Common Raven: max 11 Ft Ann WASH 11 Jan.
Horned Lark: max 700 Copake COLU 5 Jan.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 25 TR 12 Dec.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 15 Stillwater SARA 26 Jan.
Brown Creeper: max 7 Nassau RENS 28 Feb.
Carolina Wren: max 6 Stuyvesant COLU 8 Dec.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 3 mult loc.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: New Baltimore GREE 6 Dec; Bethlehem ALBA 28 Dec; Catskill GREE 18 Jan; Halfmoon SARA 28 Jan.
Eastern Bluebird: max 25 Dresden WASH 3 Jan.
Hermit Thrush: max 2 FR 20 Dec.
American Robin: max 277 Cambridge WASH 10 Jan.
Northern Mockingbird: max 6 Stuyvesant COLU 5 Jan.
Cedar Waxwing: max 76 Esperance SCHO 12 Feb.
American Pipit: Ft Miller WASH 22 Jan.
Evening Grosbeak: max 157 Summit SCHO 18 Dec.
Pine Grosbeak: max 60 Salem WASH 6 Dec.
Purple Finch: max 10 Summit SCHO 20 Dec.
Common Redpoll: max 250 FtEG 30 Jan.
Hoary Redpoll: singletons rep WASH, SARA, ALBA, RENS.
Red Crossbill: max 35 APBP 30 Jan.
White-winged Crossbill: max 125 Queensbury WARR 10 Jan.
Pine Siskin: max 180 Warrensburgh WARR 31 Dec.

American Goldfinch: max 60 Greenport COLU 22 Jan.
Lapland Longspur: max 6 Northumberland SARA 9 Jan.
Snow Bunting: est 1000 Northumberland SARA 30 Jan.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: Livingston COLU 19 Dec-9 Feb; Burnt Hills SARA 20 Feb.
American Tree Sparrow: max 72 Saratoga CBC sect D SARA 18 Dec.
Clay-colored Sparrow: Albany ALBA 24 Dec- 8 Jan.
Field Sparrow: max 2 APBP 23 Jan.
Savannah Sparrow: max 11 Kinderhook COLU 23 Dec.
Song Sparrow: max 21 Halfmoon SARA 4 Feb.
White-throated Sparrow: max 200 Schuylerville SARA 13 Dec.
White-crowned Sparrow: max 8 E Greenbush RENS 19 Jan.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 268 Livingston COLU 21 Dec.
Eastern Meadowlark: Sprakers MONT 26 Dec- 17 Jan; FtEG 29-31 Jan.
Baltimore Oriole: Germantown COLU 17 Dec, at feeder during snowstorm.
Red-winged Blackbird: est 1000 Schodack RENS 28 Feb.
Brown-headed Cowbird: est 500 Schodack RENS 28 Feb.
Rusty Blackbird: max 60 Copake COLU 13 Jan.
Common Grackle: max 300 Schodack RENS 16 Dec.
Northern Cardinal: max 52 FR 1 Feb, high count!
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: White Creek WASH 15 Dec- 21 Jan, at feeder.

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REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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Winter 2020-21 started with the first significant storm of the season on 17 December. Up to twenty inches of snow fell in parts of the Region. This storm was followed by a period of near record high temps and storms that consisted entirely of rain. The pattern continued through the month. There was a high of 65° F on 25 December and a low of -3° on 19 December. The average temperature was 42.7°, 2.4° above average. There was a total of 3.21" of precipitation, 0.32" below average. January started off with average conditions. The first snow fell on 3-4 January, about 4". Precipitation was variable with a mix of snow and rain, but snowfall overall was minimal. There was a high of 51° on 2 January and a low of 3° on 30 January. Overall temperature was 1.0° above average. There was a total of 1.3" of precipitation, 1.85" below average. February started off with a major weather event. On 1-2 February up to two feet of snow fell on most of the Region. This was followed by several lesser snow events and deep freeze conditions. Poughkeepsie had a total precipitation of 1.74", 0.92" below average, but this was not characteristic of most of the Region. There was considerable snowfall throughout the month, and the period ended with substantial snow cover in much of the Region. There was a high of 52° on 24 February and a low of 0° on 12 February, 3.9° below average.

The Greater White-fronted Goose on Bowman Avenue Pond in Rye Brook continued into December and through January. The **Barnacle Goose** with its four hybrid offspring continued into the period at the Camel Farm in Orange County. While the author and Bruce Nott searched for them on 2 December, we found a group of six Cackling Geese, and, ultimately, eight would be seen together. Both species were reported sporadically throughout the season. On 30 December, the author found a Green-winged Teal on the Rio Reservoir in Sullivan County. Seen and photographed by myself, Kevin Kreischer and Nick Hawvermale, the bird proved to be a "Common Teal", the Eurasian counterpart of our Green-winged Teal. The bird could not be relocated after 1 January. On 28 February, Wendy Tocci found an adult female Barrow's Goldeneye at Kingston Point, Ulster County.

On 24 December Larry Trachtenberg spotted a first-winter Iceland Gull at Croton Point, and likely the same bird was found three days later at McEchron Waterfront Park, also in Westchester County. On 25 December, Tom Burke and Gail Benson discovered a first-winter Glaucous Gull at Edith G. Read Nature Center in Rye. The bird was still present the following day. Bruce Nott spotted a second-winter Lesser Black-backed Gull at Newburgh Waterfront on 29 December. Continuing his efforts in the new year, Bruce found two Iceland and

two Glaucous Gulls; these birds were seen at both the Newburgh and Beacon Waterfronts and continued through February.

One of the most interesting birds of the period was an immature **Brown Pelican** found by Gerard Savarrese in Yonkers, Westchester County on 16 January. The bird was well documented as it moved up and down the Hudson River for a couple of hours before disappearing to the south. This is likely the same bird rescued in Connecticut two weeks later, rehabbed, and flown down to Florida for eventual release.

On 16 January, Linda Scrima found and photographed an unusual hawk in the Orange County Black Dirt Region. The bird was later that evening identified as an immature **Ferruginous Hawk**! Linda, Bruce Nott and the author were searching for the bird the following morning when the author relocated it on Celery Avenue in the same region. Birders arrived from all over the state and northeast to see this fantastic bird, which continued through the end of February. If accepted by NYSARC, this is the first record of this species for New York State and the easternmost record for the United States. This was without a doubt the most remarkable find of the season, perhaps even the year (time will tell).

On 26 December, the author found an adult Northern Shrike on Muhlig Road in Sullivan County. This bird is possibly the juvenile bird that frequented the same area last winter. The bird continued well into the new year but was usually difficult to find. An interesting follow up was a juvenile bird found in the same area on 26 February by Steve Sulzer.

On 26 February Charlie Roberto counted a flock of 14 Tree Swallows at Croton Point Park. By the following day they were recorded up and down the Hudson Valley. These were exceptionally early arrival dates.

The season's much anticipated winter finch irruption produced many birds throughout the period. Common Redpolls exploded on the scene the second week of December. Reports were widespread throughout the Region, increasing as the period progressed. On 10 December, the author found a single redpoll near the store in Neversink, Sullivan County. When I stopped to photograph the bird, I discovered it was a **Hoary Redpoll**. The bird was cooperative and continued most of the day. A second Hoary Redpoll was found at Croton Point Park on 21 January and seen by many people. February brought even more reports, with several present in the Region. This was the most productive season for Hoary Redpoll in many years. Red Crossbill reports were widespread throughout the early period with birds seen in almost every county in the Region. They decreased in the new year, with just a few reports by the end of the period. There were a few reports of Evening Grosbeak early in the period, but the birds ultimately vanished, leaving only a group of up to 42 remaining in the mountains of Sullivan County throughout the period.

Two great finds occurred at Croton Point Park on 20 December. Not quite unexpected was a beautiful Grasshopper Sparrow, but most unexpected was an even more striking **LeConte's Sparrow**! A group of birders found the two early, Kyle Bardwell identifying the LeConte's. Word got out quickly so many were

able to enjoy these great birds. Nice among the sparrow flock that day were two “Ipswich” Savannah Sparrows. These large pale sparrows are unique and normally only found along the coast. These birds continued for several days, with one Ipswich remaining through the period. The period produced another incursion of wintering Chipping Sparrows, though not as many as last year. Several reports of Vesper Sparrow for the winter period were notable.

On 20 February Dawn Hannay was asked to identify a bird coming to a local feeder in Rockland County. The bird turned out to be a beautiful male **Painted Bunting**! After discussing the situation with the homeowner, they decided not to open their yard for viewing of the bird.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Apollo Plaza, SULL; **AR**– Ashokan Res , ULST; **BCF** – Blue Chip Farm, ULST; **BFAS** – Buttercup Farm Audubon Sanctuary, DUTC; **BMSP** – Bear Mt SP, ROCK; **BP** – Browns Pd, ORAN; **BSWMA** – Bashakill State WMA, SULL; **CFSP** – Clarence Fahnestock SP, PUTN; **CIOES** – Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, DUTC; **CMACS** – Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary, DUTC; **CPP** – Croton Pt P, WEST; **DHCLP** – D and H Canal Linear P, SULL; **DR** – Doodletown Rd, ROCK; **DRT** – Dutchess Rail Trail, DUTC; **EGR** – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, WEST; **EMLHP** – Esopus Meadows Lighthouse P, ULST; **FPNC** – Forsythe P and Nature Center, ULST; **GL** – Glenmere L, ORAN; **GMP** – Glasco Mini P, ULST; **GV** – Great Vly WMA, ULST; **HS** – Harcourt Sanctuary, ULST; **HVRT** – Harlem Valley Rail Trail, DUTC; **II** – Iona I, ROCK; **KL** – Kiamesha L, SULL; **KP** – Kingston Pt, ULST; **LGC** – Laurel Grove Cemetery, ORAN; **LM** – Liberty Marsh, ORAN; **LNP** – Lenoir Nature Pres, WEST; **LR** – Larchmont Res, WEST; **MC** – Marshlands Conservancy, WEST; **MF** – Muscoot Farm, WEST; **MNSP** – Mills-Norrrie SP, DUTC; **MP** – Morningside P, SULL; **MPHW** – Mount Peter Hawk Watch, ORAN; **MRCC** – Mariondale Retreat and Conference Center, WEST; **NCR** – New Croton Res, WEST; **NR** – Neversink Res, SULL; **NW** – Newburgh Waterfront, ORAN; **OCBDR** – Orange County Black Dirt Region, ORAN; **OINP** – Ooscawana I Nature Pres, WEST; **OMRLMSP** – Ogden Mills and Ruth Livingston Mills SP, DUTC; **PHP** – Peach Hill P, DUTC; **PITN** – Pine Island Turf Nursery, ORAN; **PP** – Piermont Pier, ROCK; **RL** – Rhinecliff Landing, DUTC; **RLSP** – Rockland L SP, ROCK; **RNC** – Rye Nature Center, WEST; **RR** – Rondout Res, SULL; **RSP** – Rockefeller SP, WEST; **SFSP** – Sterling Forest SP, ORAN; **SGNWR** – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR, ULST; **SHSR** – Six and a Half Station Rd, ORAN; **SS** – Sleightsburg Spit, ULST; **SSF** – Stewart State Forest, ORAN; **TBWMA** – Tivoli Bays WMA, DUTC; **THMUA** – Taconic-Hereford Multiple Use Area, DUTC; **VFEP** – Vassar Farms and Ecological Pres, DUTC; **WL** – Wickham L, ORAN; **WPPF** – West Point Foundry Pres, PUTN; **WRNWR** – Wallkill River NWR, ORAN.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 7 OCBDR 1 Dec (LS); 3 Jessup Switch Rd ORAN (KA); max 40 OCBDR 17-20 Dec (KMi, KMcD); BSWMA 24 Dec (SB); max 6 OCBDR 17 Jan-12 Feb (LS, RSt, MZ, mob);

Greater White-fronted Goose: Bowman Ave Pd WEST 1-14 Dec (GBer, SD, GBen, mob); EGR 28 Dec (GBen, TB); Bowman Ave Pd 29 Dec-30 Jan (GBen, TB, MBo, mob), *intro*.

Brant: 20 New Paltz ULST 19 Dec (NYML CBC).

BARNACLE GOOSE (R9): Camel Farm ORAN 2-4 Dec (BN, JH, LS, mob); Camel Farm 2 Jan (BN, LS, KMcD, mob), *intro*.

Cackling Goose: 6 Camel Farm 2 Dec (BN, JH); max 8 OCBDR 3 – 8 Dec (LS, YH, GBen, mob); Bowman Ave Pd 4 Dec (BT); OCBDR 28 Dec (MZ); Huguenot L WEST 3-8 Jan (SK, SC, SO, MB, mob); max 2 OCBDR 17-22 Jan (PL, JT, BMa, GBen); Sylvan L DUTC 18, 26 Jan (AM, SC, KB, mob); LR 22 Jan (GBen, TB); OCBDR 5 Feb (BN, ACh), *intro*.

Wood Duck: McDonald Rd SULL 1 Dec (JD); Madam Brett P DUTC 3 Dec (SI); Bowman Ave Pd 4 Dec (BT); MNSP 9 Dec (CV); NCR 19 Dec (MM, SC); KP 23 Dec (PS); 2 Esopus Meadows Pres ULST 24 Dec (AM); Rio Res SULL 30 Dec, 21 Jan (JH, NH); OCBDR 21-22 Jan (JH, DG, TJ); Monticello SULL 27 Jan (JH).

Northern Shoveler: max 4 Browns Pd ORAN 5-22 Dec (BN); max 42 RLSP 4-23 Dec (SB, AR, AWel, mob); MC 7 Dec (MG); max 69 Huguenot L 20 Jan (GBen, TB).

Northern Pintail: max 2 RR 1 Dec- 30 Jan (JH, LV, KMi, PD); max 11 OCBDR 3-11 Dec (BN, YH, BT, mob); 6 Goose Chase Pd DUTC 17 Dec (JAs); 3 BSWMA 11 Dec (SB, BN); 5 Ulster County Fairgrounds ULST 23 Dec (GF); Titicus Res WEST 11 Dec (SC); Lake Carmel PUTN 13-14 Dec (SC, AM); 2 Deans Bridge WEST 12-22 Jan (SC, SK, KMcG, mob).

Canvasback: max 115 PP 6 Dec - 14 Feb (LP, CW); CPP 13 Dec (KB, LT, KL, mob); max 46 Dobbs Ferry WEST 22 Jan- 12 Feb (JAM).

Redhead: 2 RLSP 4-15 Dec, 1 Jan (SB, AWei, CW, AWel, CCo); 2 EGR 8 Dec (GBen, BS, SC, KMcG); Sylvan L 2-27 Jan (CP, BMa, SJ, CF); West Branch Res PUTN 4 Feb (DSi); Steamboat Riverfront P WEST 13 Feb (JAs); 3 NCR 14-28 Feb (SC, CR, SR, mob).

Surf Scoter: EGR 6 Dec (JAM); max 2 EGR 1 Jan – 13 Feb (SR, GBen, ASw, mob).

White-winged Scoter: 4 EGR 6 Dec (JAM); PP 7 Dec (SP); max 4 EGR 1-16 Jan (GBen, SC, BS, mob); EGR 13 Feb (KB, CR, MC).

Black Scoter: Orange L ORAN 1-15 Dec (BN); 6 High Banks Pres ULST 3 Dec (MS); MRCC 10 Dec (NG); Browns P 12-13 Dec (BN); 2 EGR 1 Jan (MT); KP 20-21 Feb (PS, DH, mob).

Long-tailed Duck: max 34 EGR 1 Dec-28 Feb (GBen, MT, KMcG, mob); 7 Milton Pt WEST 7 Dec (KMcG); 8 AR 13 Dec (RM).

Barrow's Goldeneye: KP 28 Feb (WT, PS, JP), *intro*.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 52 EGR 1 Dec-28 Feb (GBen, BSt, NG, mob); CPP 1 Dec (LO); Sylvan L 1 Dec (CP); West Branch Res 5 Dec (SC, MM); Beacon Waterfront P DUTC 7 Dec (KB); NW 1,10 Jan (BN, MZ, KA); PP 19 Jan (CCo); CPP 22 Jan (SC).

Horned Grebe: max 30 AR 3-13 Dec (DO, RM, DW, mob); Rye Town P 6 Dec (JAM); max 10 EGR 1 Jan-28 Feb (GBen, BSt, KMcG); Beacon Waterfront P 15 Feb (BN).

Red-necked Grebe: NCR 2 Dec (LT); Washington L ORAN 9-10 Dec (BN); Kensico Res WEST 9 Dec (SC); Milton Pt 27 Dec (GBen, TB); NCR 9 Jan (BSi).

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

American Coot: max 17 SHSR 1-9 Dec (KMi, KA, JD); max 162 NCR 10-19 Dec (CR, LO, MB, mob); max 87 RLSP 1-19 Dec (AWel, ME, AR, mob); OCBDR 1-17 Jan (BN, LS); max 70 RLSP 1-31 Jan (CCo, ME, FD, mob); max 152 NCR 1 Jan -28 Feb (SK, LT, SC, mob).

Killdeer: max 7 EGR 1 Dec-28 Feb (GBen, JG, JAM, mob); SGNWR 5 Jan (JC); Stoney Kill Farm DUTC 11 Jan (CKo); CPP 17-22 Feb (SW, KL, mob); BSWMA 25 Feb (JH, KMi, SB, mob); Georges Island P WEST 24 Feb (GBer, ASw).

Purple Sandpiper: max 2 PP 21 Dec -28 Feb (CW, EF, TF, NB, mob); max 14 EGR 14 Dec-28 Feb (KMcG, GBen, SR, mob).

American Woodcock: Overlook P DUTC 4 Feb (SC, DC).

Wilson's Snipe: CPP 1 Dec (MG, SKa, ASw, mob); max 11 Orange L 1-12 Dec (BN); SGNWR 15 Dec (BHe, DH, mob); Phillipsport Rd SULL 4-27 Feb (JH, SB, SG, RDa, MG, mob); Tinkertown DUTC 27 Feb (JC).

Spotted Sandpiper: Forest Ave WEST 29 Dec (GBen, TB); Georges Island P 4-8 Jan (GBer, CR, SKa, mob); EGR 12 Jan (DM).

Virginia Rail: Thompson Pd Pres DUTC 4 Jan (JAs).

Razorbill: 2 EGR 31 Dec (GBen, GBer, TB).

Iceland Gull: CPP 24 Dec (LT, SR, RSI, KB); McEchelon Waterfront P WEST 27 Dec (JAm, BSt, SW, mob); max 3 NW 4 Jan- 23 Feb (BN, JH, YH, RDa, mob); max 2 Beacon Waterfront P 7 Jan-16 Feb (BN, CP, MKa, mob); Verplanck WEST 10, 23-24 Feb (KB, CR, KMcG, mob).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: NW 29 Dec-28 Jan (BN, KA, KMcD, YH, mob); Beacon Waterfront P 30 Dec- 6 Feb (DC, KB, DvZ); NW 20 Feb (YH).

Glaucous Gull: EGR 25-26, 31 Dec (GBen, SR, SC, mob); Rye WEST 1 Jan (BT); NW 7 Jan -14 Feb (BN, JH, RSI, YH, mob); Beacon Waterfront P 7 Jan-14 Feb (BN, AM, CP, MKa, mob); EGR 16 Jan (CA).

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: 2 AR 3 Dec (DO); NCR 12 Dec (NG); Croton Landing P WEST 19 Dec (SC); max 4 EGR 1-18 Dec (GBen, JAm, mob); MC 4-9 Dec (DW, GBen, TB); max 2 EGR 1 Jan-28 Feb (SR, SK, GBen, mob); Steamboat Riverfront P 14 Feb (CR, GBer).

Common Loon: max 2 EGR 1-19 Dec (GBen, JG, MBK, mob); West Branch Res 19 Dec (JB); Cross River Res WEST 4 Dec (GBen, TB); MRCC 2-4, 23 Dec (SR, SC, BSt); Washington L 1-10 Jan (BN, YH); Dobbs Ferry 21-22 Jan (JAm); max 5 EGR 1 Jan -28 Feb (GBen, KMcG, ASw, mob).

Great Cormorant: max 6 NCR 4 Dec-28 Feb (ASw, CR, mob); CPP 15 Dec (LT); max 6 Harbor Square P WEST 6-19 Dec (LT, SK, TS); 7 RSP 20 Dec (EG); max 8 EGR 1 Dec-28 Feb (GBen, SC, JAm, JAs); max 22 Verplanck 9 Jan-28 Feb (YH, GBer, KMcG, mob).

BROWN PELICAN (R9): Yonkers WEST 16 Jan (GS, MBo, GBen, mob), *intro*.

Great Egret: Cross River Res 9 Jan (SC, MM, MRe).

Golden Eagle: Kukok Ln ULST 6 Dec (DO); 3 I 84 Overlook 6 Dec (LA, AA); 4 Shaughnessy Rd DUTC 6 Dec (SC); Verbank DUTC 7 Dec (AM, Sma); Strever Farm Rd DUTC 13 Dec (DK); Deer Pd Farm DUTC 15 Dec (Sma); Walker Valley ULST 2 Jan (JH, DH); 2 River Rd SULL 8 Jan (RK); max 3 Pine Plains (general area) DUTC 4 Jan-28 Feb (DK, KB, DC, mob); RR 15 Jan (JH); Storm King Mt ORAN 16 Jan-28 Feb (MZ, GP, ME, mob); OCBDR 6 Feb (PJS, KM, GBen, TB);

OCBDR 17 Feb (KK, RD, SK); BSWMA 25 Feb (JH, LV), widespread reports.

Northern Harrier: max 5 OCBDR 1 Dec-31 Jan (RSe, KM, BN, mob); max 7 SGNWR 1 Dec-31 Jan (JF, MR, FP, mob); max 2 Beechwoods SULL 12-20 Dec SULL (PD, KM, JH); EGR 17-30 Dec (NG, KMcG, JAm, mob); MC 3, 21 Jan (KK, DJ); max 2 CPP 5 Jan-28 Feb (SK, DC, SR, mob).

Rough-legged Hawk: max 4 WRNWR 1 Dec-28 Feb (KW, FP, LS); Aden Hill Rd SULL 11 Dec (JH); 2 Beechwoods 12-16 Dec (JH, KM); max 3 OCBDR 1 Dec-28 Feb (LS, RSt, YH, mob); SGNWR 18-20 Dec (RM, FP, PS, mob); Cornwall-on-Hudson ORAN 6 Dec (AA); Minnewaska Trail ULST 17 Dec (CK); 2 Beekman DUTC 19 Dec (CP); 2 CPP 19 Dec (ASw); 2 Stony Pt SP ROCK 20 Dec (AWel); Beechwoods 14-16 Jan (JH, SB, PD); BSWMA 6 Feb (PD, MB, JD); CPP 3-6 Feb (JAm, SK, MB, mob); BSWMA 14 -16 Feb (KM, MZ, SB, JH).

FERRUGINOUS HAWK: OCBDR 16 Jan - 25 Feb (LS, JH, BN, RSt, MZ, KMcD, CM, mob), *intro*.

Eastern Screech-owl: Wurtsboro SULL 23 Dec-15 Feb (JH); CPP 5,11 Jan (SK, CR); EGR 5 Jan (GBen, TB); BSWMA 8,11 Jan (JH, SB); Pine Plains 8-11 Jan (SJ, DvZ, DK); Maple Ridge ULST 17 Jan (AMe).

Great Horned Owl: 2 Stony Pt SP 20 Dec (AWel); CPP 4-21 Dec (ASw, SK, BSt); max 2 MC 1-25 Dec (GBen, DJ, MBK, mob); 2 Poughkeepsie DUTC 20 Dec (BL); MC 1-25 Jan (GBen, SC, SR, mob); Kendridge Farm ORAN 2 Jan (YH); OCBDR 2 Jan-6 Feb (BN, GBen, LS, mob); max 2 BSWMA 5 Jan-5 Feb (JH, SB, PD, SG, mob); max 2 CPP 5 Jan-13 Feb (SK, LT, EM, mob).

Snowy Owl: New Paltz 21 Feb (CKi).

Barred Owl: BSWMA 1 Dec, 11, 25 Jan -5 Feb (JH, SB, SG, KM, mob); Lasdon P and Arboretum WEST 4 Dec (LT); THMUA 21 Jan (DA, SH). Widespread reports throughout period.

Long-eared Owl: SGNWR 5 Feb (GP, KMB, CM, mob); KP 16 Feb (HS).

Short-eared Owl: max 10 SGNWR 2 Dec -28 Feb (RM, JF, FP, mob); max 4 OCBDR 1 Jan-14 Feb (KM, BN, KA, mob); CPP 24 Jan (MRo).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Magic Meadow ULST 15,21 Dec (PS); Sickler Rd ULST 15,21 Dec (PS); Sundale Rd ULST 10 Dec (PS); Sickler Rd 14 Feb (PS).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Ft Montgomery ORAN 13 Dec (CKi); Maple Ridge ULST 13 Dec (AM); Minnewaska Tr 3 Jan (CKi); New Paltz ULST 21 Feb (CKi).

American Kestrel: SGNWR 1-24 Jan (SC, KB, MRI, mob); max 2 OCBDR 1-24 Jan – 10 Feb (LS, KA, KMi, mob); max 2 Sullivan Grasslands SULL 5-24 Jan (JH).

Merlin: Lake Glenaida PUTN 2 Jan (SK, AB); OCBDR 4-22 Jan (ML, PS, LS, mob); CPP 15 Jan (LT, DV); RLSP 17 Jan (CCo).

Peregrine Falcon: max 2 OCBDR 1 Jan-28 Feb (LS, BN, GBen, mob); SGNWR 5-10 Jan, 8 Feb (AG, GS, mob); PP 1,15 Jan (CCo, KN, JM); Beacon Waterfront 25 Jan (KB); CPP 17 Jan-20 Feb (CR, KMcG, LT, mob);

Monk Parakeet: max 12 Red Bridge Area WEST 13 Dec-31 Jan (FG, SKa, SC, mob); Five Islands P WEST 1 Jan-24 Feb (KK, BN).

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Eastern Phoebe: CPP 1 Dec (AS, SK, LT, mob); Ulster P ULST 2-3 Jan (DT); Farmers Mill Rd PUTN 7 Jan (SC); Hilltop Hanover Farm WEST 14 Jan (KMcG); WRNWR 20-31 Jan (KMB, AV); Phillipsport Rd 31 Jan (JH); EMLHP 4 Feb (FM); 2 WRNWR 21 Feb (DSa).

Northern Shrike: Muhlig/Muthig Rds SULL 26-27 Dec (JH, RDa, MG, PD, RDe); Aden Rd SULL 1-19 Jan (PD, SB, SS, KMi, mob); Aden Rd 26 Feb (SS), *intro*.

Horned Lark: max 100 OCBDR 2-27 Dec (KMcD, KA, LS, mob); max 75 CPP 1-26 Dec (CR, EG, NG, mob); max 12 Beechwoods 18-22 Dec (JH, KMi, PD); 4 Hurley Mt Rd ULST 19 Dec (DO); 40 Rockefeller Ln DUTC 22 Dec (DC); 25 Haverstraw Landfill ROCK 20 Dec (AWel); max 6 BSWMA 2-27 Feb (JH, SB, KMi, mob).

Tree Swallow: 14 CPP 26-28 Feb (CR, SR, SK, mob); max 11 NCR 27 Feb (GBen, KB, CR, mob); WRNWR 27 Feb (LS, KMi); 2 KP 28 Feb (RH), *intro*.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 5 BSWMA 1-23 Dec (SB, KMi, JH); max 11 Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery DUTC 2-20 Dec (CCh, DvZ, BN, mob); max 4 Marbletown O + W Rail Trail ULST 13 Dec (NW, DWe, MM, mob); 2 Kensico Res 23 Dec (LWel), widespread reports.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Croton Landing P 19 Dec (SC, MM); Van Cortlandt Manor WEST Dec (CR); North County Trail WEST 19 Dec (SR, RK); MRCC 26 Dec (CR); BSWMA 26,

31 Dec (SB, JH); Greenhaven WEST 27 Dec (TB, GBen, AF); Long Dock P DUTC 28 Dec (HM); Madam Brett P 4-12 Jan (HM); Lake Mahopac PUTN 21 Jan (CR); LNP 9,17 Jan (JR).

Gray Catbird: Kendridge Farm 19 Dec (AA, LA); Yorktown Bike Path WEST 4 Dec (SR); Pruyn Sanctuary WEST 9 Dec (SC); max 4 CPP 1-24 Dec (LO, LT, KB, mob); SFSP 23 Dec (EF, TF); DHCLP 25 Jan (JH); max 3 WPFP 1-26 Jan (CR, KB, NS); max 2 CPP 1-24 Jan (SL, SK, LO, mob).

Brown Thrasher: Cortland Golf Course Wetlands WEST 19 Dec (JAm, TW).

Hermit Thrush: KP 4 Dec (RM); max 4 OMRLMSP 4-11 Dec (CCh, DL, JC); Marbletown ULST 13 Dec (NW, DW, MM, mob); Mill Brook Pres DUTC 19 Dec (NM); max 2 BSWMA 19-22 Dec (SB); Kendridge Farm 19 Dec (AA, LA); 2 VFEP 21 Dec (MKa); CPP 23,27 Dec (KMa, LT).

American Pipit: max 40 OCBDR 1-5 Dec (KMi, DC, EA); max 40 CPP 1 Dec-10 Jan (GBen, LT, AS, mob); SGNWR 18 Dec (RM).

Evening Grosbeak: 6 AR 10 Dec (MM); Somers WEST 1 Jan (KC); 2 Walkill ULST 2 Jan (JC); max 42 Blue Hill Rd SULL 12 Jan - 21 Feb (JH, BN, KMi, mob), *intro*.

Purple Finch: MC 2 Dec (GBen, TB); 2 Pruyn Sanctuary WEST 4 Dec (AS, GBer); max 2 BSWMA 7-27 Dec (SB, JH, KMi); max 4 Quaker Bridge WEST 16-18 Dec (TS); Minnewaska Trail ULST 24-25 Dec (CKi); 5 Kendridge Farm 19 Dec (AA, LA).

Common Redpoll: 4 PHP 2 Dec (KB); 3 Stonehouse ULST 3 Dec (PMar); max 65 Deer Pd DUTC 8 Dec (SMA); max 60 Beechwoods 10 Dec (RDa); 15 Aden Hill Rd SULL 11 Dec (JH); max 17 Neversink SULL (KMi, JH, SB, PD); 2 Mountain Lakes P WEST 11 Dec (RL); 48 RR 22 Dec (JH); max 18 Brinton Brook Sanctuary WEST 26-30 Dec (GBer, JC, PC, EB); 10 Neversink SULL 1 Jan (SB, KMi, PD, mob); max 105 Lake Louise Marie SULL 4 Jan (JH, KMi); 54 Beechwoods 14 Jan (JH); max 30 CPP 10 Jan-21 Feb (AS, BSt, GBen, mob); OCBDR 20 Jan -4 Feb (MZ, ML, ACo, KA, TH, mob); max 105 BSWMA 3-24 Feb (JH, MBu, SB, mob), *intro*.

HOARY REDPOLL (R9): Neversink 10 Dec (JH, RDa); CPP 21 Jan (LT, SK, BSt, mob); CPP 28 Jan, 5 Feb (SC, AS, PH, RL); OCBDR 4 Feb (JD); 2 Poughkeepsie 17-26 Feb (KB, DC, CP); CPP 17 Feb (MS); max 2 Port Ewen ULST 22-28 Feb (FB, PD, PS, mob); Blue Hill

Rd SULL 26-28 Feb (JH, RDa, MG, KMi, mob), *intro*.

Red Crossbill: 2 Yard Patch ULST 5 Dec (PS); 2 Hilltop Acres ULST 6 Dec (PD); 3 Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery 6 Dec (DvZ, BMa); 8 Merriwald SULL 7 Dec (NH); 11 RR 11 Dec (JH); 35 Yard ULST 11 Dec (PS); 8 Forestburgh SULL 30 Dec (JH); Ulster P 1 Jan (DT); Hudson Overlook WEST 1 Jan (JAm); 2 Glynwood Farm PUTN 2 Jan (ME, LT); Statsburgh DUTC 6 Jan (JC); max 9 West Saugheties Rd ULST 18-20 Jan (PS); max 2 Forestburgh 20-22 Feb (NH), *intro*.

White-winged Crossbill: Ulster P 14 Dec (AS, DT); 4 Saugauties Light House ULST 17 Jan (SC, AB); AR 21 Jan (PS).

Pine Siskin: 2 BSWMA 28 Dec (SB); 10 Gardner ULST 2 Jan (JC); max 30 Stoutenburgh Dr DUTC 1 Jan-28 Feb (DC, BMa, DvZ); 2 SGNWR 3, 10 Jan (LWei, DW); 25 Maple Ridge ULST 6 Jan (AM); max 7 Arlington DUTC 7-12 Jan (BHi); Wurtsboro SULL 26 Jan, 14 Feb (PD, JH); max 2 BSWMA 5,12 Feb (SG, KV); max 3 MC 20-25 Feb (GBen, KMcG, TB).

Lapland Longspur: OCBDR 4,12 Dec (YH, RSI); max 8 OCBDR 11,18, 29 Jan, 6-14 Feb (BN, BW, BC, JH, MZ, KMi).

Snow Bunting: max 80 OCBDR 1-18 Dec (BN, KMi); max 8 Beechwoods 18-21 Dec (JH, KMi, RD, PD); 4 Nyquist-Harcourt ULST 18 Dec (NM); max 13 CPP 5-22 Dec (EG, LT, MBo, mob); 6 Kingsland Pt CP WEST 20 Dec (EG); max 11 Sullivan County Community College 10-15 Jan (KM, JH); max 120 OCBDR 29 Jan (RH, BN, MZ, JH, mob); max 110 BSWMA 4-28 Feb (JH, SB, LV, KMi, SG, mob).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Grasshopper Sparrow: CPP 20 Dec (CR, KB, SC, mob), *intro*.

LeCONTE'S SPARROW: CPP 20-22 Dec (KB, CR, SC, mob), *intro*.

Chipping Sparrow: South Salem WEST 5 Dec (JZ); Home PUTN 5 Dec (SC); Hillview Res WEST 16 Dec (SC); max 2 Dunderberg Rd ROCK 16-20 Dec, 3 Jan (AWel); WPPF 3 Jan (CR); Kingston Ave ULST 24 Jan (NW); Spring Valley ROCK 16-20 Feb (LP).

Fox Sparrow: Esopus ULST 1-17 Dec (DB); max 2 CPP 2-23 Dec (LO, LT, KB, mob); max 2 MC 2-10 Dec (GBen, TB); Ulster County

Fairgrounds 12 Dec (GF); 3 Fox Hill ORAN (AS); Stoney Pt SP 16 Dec (AWel).

White-crowned Sparrow: 2 Port Ewen ULST Dec (FB); Stoutenberg Dr DUTC 9 Dec (DC); max 9 Posquello Creek ULST 5, 11 Dec (PS); SGNWR 26 Dec (TC); 2 Stoney Kill Farm EEC 28 Dec (AL).

Vesper Sparrow: Hurley Mt Rd ULST 19, 22 Dec (PS); 2 OCBDR 30 Jan -10 Feb (MZ, RH, GBen, mob), *intro*.

"Ipswich" Savannah Sparrow: 2 CPP 20 Dec-28 Feb (KB, GBen, TB, mob), *intro*.

Lincoln's Sparrow: MC 13-14 Jan (TB, SO); CPP 26 Jan (LT, SKa).

Eastern Towhee: 2 Weston Rd Swamp ULST 1 Dec (GF); Arlington DUTC 12 Dec (BHi); Pleasantville WEST 25 Dec (NB).

Eastern Meadowlark: max 4 CPP 1-23 Dec (LT, AS, SKa, mob); max 8 SGRNWR 5-22 Dec (MDed, AD, FS, mob); max 2 CPP 2 Jan – 14 Feb (KF, LT, SK, mob); max 21 SGRNWR 7 Jan-5 Feb (SC, KB, SR, mob).

Baltimore Oriole: Wappingers DUTC 11-24 Dec (SI, BMi); Rhinebeck DUTC 12-13 Dec (MP); Hastings-on-Hudson WEST 25-26 Jan (TK).

Red-winged Blackbird: max 45 CPP 1-25 Dec (LT, JAm, AS, mob); max 11 Georges Island P 1-18 Dec (GBer); max 10 EGR 14-24 Dec (GBen, NG, KMcG, EL); 40 Stony Pt SP 16 Dec (AWel); max 35 BSWMA 25 Dec -15 Feb (KMi, JH, SB).

Rusty Blackbird: max 4 Esopus 3-17 Dec (DB); 2 Grieg Farm DUTC 15 Dec (AG); max 7 Bucolic Acres East ULST 14,17 Dec (ER); max 3 Pruyn Sanctuary 18-19 Dec (AS, KMcG, KW.); CPP 23 Dec (MW); 2 BSWMA 25 Dec (KMi, JH, SB); Putnam County Golf Course PUTN 2 Jan (NS); Ossining WEST 9 Jan (SK); Esopus ULST 15 Jan (DB); max 9 DHCLP 25 Jan-14 Feb (JH, SG, PD).

Common Grackle: 45 LNP 6 Dec (MB); max 23 CPP 14-28 Dec (LT, CR, LO, mob); 30 LNP 17 Dec (JR).

Tennessee Warbler: KP 4 Dec (RM); White Plains 11 Jan (KMcG); CPP 13-15 Jan (LT, SK, LO, mob).

Orange-crowned Warbler: Moran PL WEST 16-17 Dec (FG).

Nashville Warbler: Larchmont WEST 17 Dec (GBen, TB).

Northern Parula: Meadow and Rowley Bridge Trail WEST 1 Dec (PMac).

Pine Warbler: CPP 11 Dec (KL, LT); Monroe
ORAN 28 Dec- 26 Jan (HB); CPP 13 Jan (SK,
LT, LO, KL)

PAINTED BUNTING: Pearl River ROCK 20-
21 Feb (MKaufman, DH, JWo), *intro*.
Dickcissel: Kerhonksen ULST 17 Dec- 4 Jan
(MKZ, PS).

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REGION 10—MARINE

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	Central Park			Islip		
Temp	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Dec	39.2°	37.5°	+1.7°	37.2°	35.6°	+1.6°
Jan	34.8°	32.6°	+2.2°	32.9°	30.6°	+2.3°
Feb	34.2°	35.3°	-1.1°	32.2°	32.5°	-0.6°
Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Dec	4.61"	4.00"	+0.61"	4.50"	4.06"	+0.44"
Jan	2.31"	3.65"	-1.34"	1.86"	3.64"	-1.78"
Feb	5.13"	3.09"	+2.04"	4.21"	3.26"	+0.95"

Although temperatures in Region 10 were above average in December and January, and somewhat below in February, the winter was marked by several short-lived but steep temperature declines that froze freshwater bodies, most notably on 19-20 December, 9-12 January, and 7 February. There were substantial snowfalls on 16 December, 1 February, and again on 7 February, with February totals of 26.0" in Central Park and 24.9" in Islip. Counts of many "half-hardy" species dropped substantially between January and February, although I have not compared this year's to previous years' midwinter changes.

In the early fall, reports of poor seed crops to the north fed hopes of massive incursions of fringillid finches and possibly other boreal visitors. As the Fall report will doubtless have detailed, migration watches along the south shore of Long Island, especially at Robert Moses SP (Suffolk), bore this out, as observers recorded massive numbers of American Goldfinches (as many as 1400 per hour) and many Pine Siskins (records up to 80 per hour), accompanied by modest numbers of Red Crossbills and Purple Finches and by many single-digit counts of Common Redpoll and fewer of Evening Grosbeak. Of these great numbers, few settled and lingered long into the winter. Only five Evening Grosbeaks were recorded after 30 November, one of which came to a feeder in Stony Brook (Suffolk) well into February. Common Redpolls were recorded throughout the season, especially along the north shore of Long Island, with an exceptionally high count of 80 in Caumsett SP (Suffolk) on 18 January. Pine Siskins persisted

in all counties except Bronx, with high counts of 30 in Richmond, 22 in Brooklyn, and 35 in Nassau; they continued at a Stony Brook feeder well into April. American Goldfinches persisted through the winter in unexceptional numbers. Single-digit counts of Purple Finch were reported from 12 or fewer sites in each county, except for Suffolk, with 32 site records. Especially in December but continuing through, there were many reports of Red Crossbill, mostly at coastal sites, with as many as 80 recorded on 16 January at Robert Moses SP. Based on recordings of their calls, most of those identified were Type 10, although there were also single reports of Types 1 and 13. Note, however, that the distinction between Type 10, distributed mostly in the Pacific Northwest, and Type 7, said to frequent the east, appears to be uncertain (M. Young and T. Spahn 2017, <https://ebird.org/news/crossbills>). Small numbers were recorded in February and into at least May along the Paumanok Trail in the pine barrens of Manorville (Suffolk), where apparent nesting efforts were noted in 2019. Up to 29 were recorded in December and January, with smaller numbers in February and into at least May along the Paumanok Trail in the pine barrens of Manorville (Suffolk), where apparent nesting efforts were noted in 2019. White-winged Crossbill, in contrast, was almost missing: the only reports were of a few birds in early January at Jones Beach West End (Nassau) and Heckscher SP (Suffolk).

Regarding other northern land birds, it was an irruption year for Red-breasted Nuthatch, as in winter 2018-2019 but contrasting with its paucity in 2019-2020. Lapland Longspurs were seen at Great Kills Park (Richmond) and at six other sites, mostly on the south shore from Kings through Suffolk. Snow Buntings appeared in probably average numbers, with as many as 173 counted on 7 December in Robert Moses SP. Among raptors, a single Northern Goshawk was seen at Shinnecock Inlet on 20 January, and Rough-legged Hawks were seen at 11 sites in four counties, with a maximum of three at the EPCAL grassland (Suffolk). The incidence of roosting owls is hard to judge, as many observers, wisely, are not reporting them, but at least five Barred Owls moved into Pelham Bay Park (Bronx) and three parks in Manhattan; and single Long-eared Owls were seen in Inwood Hill and Central Parks (Manhattan), JFK Wildlife Sanctuary (Nassau), and Heckscher SP and Wertheim NWR (Suffolk). Northern Saw-whet Owls were found roosting in at least three counties, and enterprising owlers reported the species from at least 28 sites in Suffolk, with as many as six heard in Napeague. Short-eared Owls were reported from nine sites in four counties, with a maximum of three at Richmond Creek (Richmond); the number of this increasingly threatened species at the EPCAL grassland (Suffolk) has dwindled year by year to a single bird this season. At least 22 Snowy Owls were recorded in the Region, at 15 sites in five counties. These included a celebrity in Central Park that continued from 4 February to at least 27 February.

This winter, like most, yielded a considerable number of vagrant, very uncommon, and downright rare species. Greater White-fronted Goose occurs annually, but one that frequented Randall's Island and visited Central Park was a first record for Manhattan (New York Co.). Only two Barnacle Geese were

recorded, in Southampton, and a single **Pink-footed Goose**, in Northport (Suffolk) was the rarest of the winter geese. King Eiders were more numerous and widespread than usual, as detailed in the species account. At least two male **“Northern” Common Eiders**, subspecies *borealis*, were photographed between Jones Beach and Fire Island Inlet (see p. 155). A small but growing number of documented records of this taxon south of northern New England suggests that it might be a rare, but under-detected incursive visitor to our area (S. S. Mitra, pers. comm.).

An Eared Grebe continued into December at Jamaica Bay WR. A Brown Pelican was spotted along the Hudson River from Inwood Hill Park, and a Sandhill Crane was photographed at Tobay Beach (Nassau). Black-headed Gulls were seen at four widely spaced sites between Montauk and Queens, and at least two in Brooklyn—and one seen repeatedly at Randall’s Island probably accounted also for the exceptional sighting on the Central Park reservoir. Remarkably, three **“Mew” Gulls** were recorded (the formal split into two species was published during the preparation of this report): an adult *brachyrhynchus* and an immature *canus* in Brooklyn and an adult at Orient Point (Suffolk), deemed indeterminate. Notable passerines included at least five **Ash-throated Flycatchers**, one Western Kingbird (Montauk), a Sedge Wren on the Captree CBC in West Sayville (Suffolk), a Lark Sparrow at Fort Tilden, two (!) **LeConte’s Sparrows**, at Wolfe’s Pond Park (Richmond) in December and Breezy Point (Queens) in February, and three **Western Tanagers**, including a single sighting in Montauk and two long-staying birds in Manhattan.

Species at the rarer end of the spectrum included a **Rufous Hummingbird** at a feeder in East Hampton (Suffolk), a **Varied Thrush** in Ridge (Suffolk), and a **Painted Bunting** near Montauk that obligingly stayed for the CBC the next day. But the **Spotted Towhee** that Shai Mitra and Patricia Lindsay found on the Southern Nassau CBC in Baldwin Harbor Park certainly takes pride of place. The towhee, a female of the *arcticus* race, frequented a large island of thick brush that both confined the bird to a searchable area and provided it plenty of opportunity to stay out of sight, frustrating some of the many birders who came for it. The last of the 129 eBird reports of the towhee was from 26 February. (If I may be allowed a personal reflection: I was very happy to see this bird, but it wasn’t my first in New York; see note, p. 126 and photo, p. 156).

Among noteworthy water birds, Tundra Swans were distinguished by their absence, other than a group of five in Staten Island (Richmond) on 5 February; the traditional East Hampton group has dwindled steadily, now apparently to zero. Blue-winged Teal was seen at five sites on Long Island, and Eurasian Wigeon at 10; a male Eurasian x American Wigeon was photographed in Brooklyn. The maximal count of Canvasback was 94 at the World’s Fair Marina (Queens); the species was almost absent from some former sites. Harlequin Ducks were reported from six sites; at Point Lookout, the most consistent site over the years the maximal count was seven, but only three continued through. One or two Barrow’s Goldeneye occurred at nine Long Island sites; in Suffolk, a male returned for the

fourth year to Crab Meadow Beach, and a female visited a freshwater pond in Setauket for about a week. The most exceptional anatid event was the abundance of King Eiders. In contrast to the usual handful of individuals, this winter featured one bird in Richmond, two in Kings, at least four in Queens, three in Nassau, and at least 10 at six sites in Suffolk. Razorbills were not unusually abundant; the star alcid this winter was Dovekie, seen by many observers from Brooklyn to Montauk, mostly from mid-December to mid-January; as many as nine were seen in single sea-watches. There were only four to five reports (each) of **Thick-billed** and **Common Murres**, none of which stayed in place for long. Due to weather, there were no pelagic trips this winter, but shore-based sea watches yielded up to 13 Black-legged Kittiwakes. Counts of as many as 940 (on 7 December) and 3418 (on 20 December) Bonaparte's Gull at Robert Moses SP were encouraging by current, although not by historical, standards. Along with goodly numbers of Iceland and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, at least 12 Glaucous Gulls were seen from Staten Island to Montauk, and there were three confirmed reports of Herring x Glaucous gull hybrids. Other notable Laridae included two Royal Terns in early December in Queens, and Black Skimmers that lingered into early January at Point Wadsworth (Richmond) and Coney Island Creek Park (Kings).

The most interesting rallid this winter was an adult Common Gallinule throughout the period at Mill Pond in Bellmore (Nassau)—interesting because an immature did the same in winter 2019-2020, so this was very possibly a returning bird. American Oystercatchers occurred in all five coastal counties, mostly in December, but one stayed until 24 February in Richmond and two until 28 February in Queens. Two Piping Plovers at Robert Moses SP on 25 February might have been early returning migrants, but the six Semipalmated Plovers at Jones Beach West End, seen 10-14 February, surely overwintered nearby, as did one in Floyd Bennett Field (Kings), seen on 10 and 4 January. There were many reports of Greater Yellowlegs through the season, and single Lesser Yellowlegs in Nassau and Richmond. Two Long-billed Dowitchers found in Oceanside on the Southern Nassau CBC (2 January) were the only report of this ordinarily scarce but dependable species, but a Short-billed Dowitcher photographed on 5 December in Amityville (Suffolk) was unexpected, as were a Spotted Sandpiper in Queens on 19 December and a Least Sandpiper seen on 19 December and 1 January in Great Kills Park (Richmond). Wilson's Snipe was seen at least 20 sites in five counties, with as many as 18 at Georgica Cove Hollow in eastern Suffolk. American Bitterns were seen in four counties, with several persisting through the winter along Dune Road (Suffolk) and at the J. F. Kennedy Sanctuary at Tobay Beach (Nassau). Great Egrets occurred at 57 sites in the Region, with numerous reports through February. Single Snowy Egret records from three fairly close sites in Suffolk, from 27 December to 16 January, might have been a single bird. A Tricolored Heron at Jones Beach SP on 2 January and a Green Heron at Hendrix Creek (Queens) on 11-12 January were the only reports of those species, while single Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen in Nassau (2-18 January) and at

Randall's Island (11 December to at least 10 January), a notable record for New York County.

Lingering "half-hardy" species included Osprey (20 December), Turkey Vulture (at least 50 overwintering in Riverhead), and Black Vulture ("historically rare, but decreasingly so" [Peter Paul, eBird, 26 April]), as usual in Riverhead (Suffolk), but also in Kings and Bronx Counties. Among quite a few Eastern Phoebes, one was repeatedly observed feeding on small fish at Georgica Cove Hollow on 4 March by Jane and Alfred Ross. (See note, p. 125, and photo, p. 156). Blue-headed Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Wood Thrush, Veery, and Swainson's Thrush were each recorded singly. Tree Swallow was much less abundant than in some other winters, but at least six House Wrens, nearly 30 Marsh Wrens, and at least 34 Brown Thrashers were recorded. Chipping Sparrow is surely overwintering in greater numbers than before, with up to nine birds at 52 sites in six counties. Single Vesper Sparrows were recorded at Shirley Chisholm SP in Brooklyn, and at three sites in Suffolk; Dune Road yielded Saltmarsh, a "probable" Nelson's, and Seaside Sparrows, the latter also in Richmond. At least six Lincoln's Sparrows were recorded, one of which persisted well beyond this season in Central Park. There were five reports of Yellow-breasted Chat; Eastern Meadowlark was seen at 25 sites in five counties, and Baltimore Oriole at 23 sites in five counties, including several at feeders. Among the 52 sites in seven counties at which Rusty Blackbird was recorded, a count of 49 at Shu Swamp was exceptional. Large flocks of Common Grackle were noted at several sites, including 3200 at EPCAL in Suffolk; and as many as 562 Boat-tailed Grackles were recorded at a Queens park. Last in this list are a Rose-breasted Grosbeak on 9 January, and no fewer than 14 species of warblers, many of which persisted in city parks: Ovenbird (9!), Northern Waterthrush (2), Tennessee (6), Orange-crowned (10), Nashville (5), Common Yellowthroat (3), Cape May (3), Northern Parula (2), Yellow (1), Blackpoll (1), Palm (at least 21), Pine (25), Yellow-rumped (as usual), and Wilson's (2).

I close with remarks on a few species that do not fit into these several themes. Red-headed Woodpeckers, as always sporadic, were seen repeatedly at two Suffolk sites and once in Staten Island, and Pileated Woodpeckers were seen in Van Cortland P (Bronx) and at three sites in Staten Island. Common Raven has become a quotidian bird throughout much of the Region, recorded from more than 21 sites in Kings, 20 in Queens, 63 in Nassau, and more than 150 in Suffolk, extending to the end of both forks. In contrast, Northern Bobwhite and (except perhaps in Staten Island) Ring-necked Pheasant seem no longer to be self-sustaining in the Region. The numerous sightings of the pheasant in Suffolk Co. are of released birds or their immediate progeny (M. Scheibel, pers. comm.), and in its last Nassau stronghold (Hempstead Plains), it has not been recorded on the Southern Nassau CBC since 2014. It has been ecologically replaced by Wild Turkey, now abundant throughout much of Long Island, especially in the east.

To my knowledge, 220 species were recorded in the Region this winter.

It is with sadness but also many fond memories that we note the passing of Seymour (Sy) Schiff on 14 January 2021 at the age of 93. A long-time Region 10 co-editor and well-known figure among the Region's birding community, Sy was a voluble but alert, inquisitive stalwart of Nassau birding, and a role model for those of us who hope to be alert and active in our later years. A touching memoriam by his good friend and constant companion, Joe Giunta, appears in the October issue of *New York Birders*.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AMNH – American Museum of Natural History; **APEC** – Alley Pond Environmental Center, Bayside, QUEE; **APP** – Alley Pd P, QUEE; **BBP** – Brooklyn Bridge P, KING; **BBYC** – Bellport Bay Yacht Club, SUFF; **BPdP** – Baisley Pd P, QUEE; **BPt** – Breezy Pt, QUEE; **BRY** – Bryant P, NEWY; **BZ** – Bronx Zoo, BRON; **CBC** – Christmas Bird Count; **CIC** – Coney I Creek/P, KING; **CLP** – Clove Lakes P, RICH; **CMB** – Crab Meadow Beach, SUFF; **CP** –

Central P, NEWY; **CR** – Cemetery of the Resurrection, RICH; **CroP** – Crocheron P, QUEE; **CVP** – Calvert Vaux P (aka Dreier Offerman P), KING; **DP** – Democrat Pt, Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **DR** – Dune Rd, CCP to Shinn, SUFF; **EPCAL** – Calverton Grasslands (former Grumman Property), Calverton, SUFF; **et seq.** – observers who saw a bird after the discoverer (from *et sequentes*, “and persons following”); **FBF** – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; **FKP** – Fresh Kills P, RICH; **FMCP** – Flushing Meadow-Corona P, QUEE; **FP** – Forest P, QUEE; **FT** – Fort Tilden, QUEE; **GBy** – Gravesend Bay, KING; **GCH** – Georgica Cove Hollow, SUFF; **GKP** – Great Kills P, RICH; **GwC** – Green-wood Cemetery, KING; **HHCG** – Hither Hills Campground, SUFF; **HLSP** – Hempstead L SP, NASS; **HSP** – Heckscher SP, SUFF; **IHP** – Inwood Hill P, NEWY; **JBSP** – Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWE** – West End, Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWR** – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; **JFKMWS** – John F Kennedy Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary, NASS; **KCP** – Kissena Corridor P, QUEE; **KP** – Kissena P, QUEE; **Mass** – Massapequa Preserve, NASS; **MB** – Mecox Bay/Mecox In, SUFF; **Mon** – Montauk, T of East Hampton, SUFF; **MP** – Montauk Pt SP, SUFF; **MPB** – Marine P Brooklyn, KING; **Nap** – Napeague, SUFF; **NB** – Nickerson Beach, NASS; **NYBG** – New York Botanical Garden, BRON; **NYIT** – New York Institute of Technology, NEWY; **OMNSA** – Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area, NASS; **PatchL** – Patchogue L, Patchogue, SUFF; **PBP** – Pelham Bay P, BRON; **PL** – Point Lookout, NASS; **PlumbB** – Plumb Beach, KING; **PNS** – Pine Neck Sanctuary, SUFF; **PP** – Prospect P, KING; **RBA** – NY Rare Bird Alert; **RI** – Randalls I, NEWY; **Riv** – Riverhead, SUFF; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **RP** – Riis P, QUEE; **SC** – Santapogue Creek, SUFF; **SCFED** – Suffolk County Farm & Education Center, SUFF; **Shinn** – Shinnecock In, SUFF; **SMNC** – Salt Marsh Nature Center at Marine P (KING); **SPCP** – Smith Pt CP, SUFF; **TB** – Tiana Beach, near Shinn, SUFF; **VCP** – Van Cortlandt P, BRON; **VMP** – Veterans Memorial Pier, KING; **WPP** – Wolfe’s Pd P, RICH.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: Max 1300 JBWE 28 Feb (CF).
Greater White-fronted Goose: Randall’s Is NEWY 20 Dec (CBC) – 12 Jan; sightings of probably same bird, CP, sporadically 15-23 Jan; Centerport SUFF 1 Dec-13 Jan (J. Klein et seq.); Riverhead sod fields 26 Jan (B. Bull); Southampton 12-24 Dec (AColl et seq.); East Hampton 10-19 Dec (B. Horwith); 3 Dix Hills 13 Jan (M. Vedder, PJJ, SSM).
Pink-footed Goose: Northport SUFF 24 Jan, 1 Mar (JG et seq.).
Barnacle Goose: 7 Southampton 1 Dec (D. Cartwright) – 24 Dec (2, J. Shemilt).
Cackling Goose: 2 Miller Field RICH 26 Dec (ACi); Governor’s Island NEWY 11 Feb (C. Weiner); 10 sites in SUFF.
Canada Goose: max 4850 VCP 16 Jan (M. Bochnik).

Tundra Swan: 5 Fort Wadsworth RICH 5 Feb (ACi).
Wood Duck: max 47 BZ 14 Feb (K. Huth).
Blue-winged Teal: Bellmore NASS 31 Dec-30 Jan (m. ob.), Captree I 13 Dec (DF); Patchogue L 31 Dec-30 Jan (K. Coyle), Eastport 31 Jan (K. Cashman).
Northern Shoveler: max 375 PP KING 13 Dec (DGo).
Gadwall: max 415 Swan Pd, Patchogue SUFF 4 Jan (G. O’Mara).
Eurasian Wigeon: Bush Term. Piers P KING 26 Feb (P. Sweet), Alley Pond P QUEE 1 Dec (L. Pisani); JBWR 3 Dec (CF); Bayswater QUEE 25 Jan (L. Scheppeke); Hewlett NASS 12 Dec (B. Belford); HLSP 4-11 Dec (M. Zito); Oyster Bay NASS 6 Dec-15 Jan (BBo et seq); Fort Salonga SUFF 5 Dec-6 Feb (BBo et seq); Patchogue SUFF 12 Jan (B. Young); Mott

Lane SUFF 24 Feb (M. Scheibel); Pepperidge L SUFF 7 Dec (K. J. Klein).

American Wigeon: max 232 Gardiner's I SUFF 19 Dec (TJS).

Mallard: max 800 Horsemill La, Southampton 23 Feb (C. Tiemann).

American Black Duck: max 1484 JFK Memorial Sanctuary (Tobay) 2 Jan (S. Camillieri).

Northern Pintail: max 58, Mass NASS 3 Dec (E. Mutchnick).

Green-winged Teal: max 156 Shorts Pd SUFF 6 Feb (BBo, TJS). No reports of Eurasian.

Canvasback: mostly single-digit counts at 3 sites in BRON, 1 in NEWY, 3 in QUEE (high count 94 at World's Fair Marina 23 Jan, SP), 2 in NASS, 18 in SUFF (high counts 26 Centerport 21 Jan, S. Mutchnick; 84 North Sea 9 Jan, CG *et al.*; 160 Watermill, SUFF 13 Feb, CG; max. 210 Big Fresh Pd, Southampton 6 Feb (J. McNeill).

Redhead: max 91 Baisley Pd P QUEE 18 Dec (CF).

Ring-necked Duck: max 210 West L, Patchogue SUFF 14 Jan (K. Kleinpeter).

Greater Scaup: max 7500 HSP 10 Feb (JG).

Lesser Scaup: max 1250 World's Fair Marina QUEE 23 Jan (SP).

King Eider: Great Kills P RICH 13 Dec (M. Shanley, A. Ferino); Army Pier KING 71 Dec (R. Manian, D. Hreshowsik); Dead Horse Pt/FBF 16 Jan thru (T. Preston et seq.); Breezy Pt QUEE 12 Jan (CF); 2 FT 4 Dec (P. Sweet); 2-4 RP 6 Dec (L. LaBella, X. Vitarelli); 2 Rockaway Beach 2 Jan (J. Thorp); 2-3 JBWE 28 Dec-27 Feb (S. Billerman et seq.); RMSP 11 Dec-3 Feb, high 4 (16 Jan, MMcB); also Captree I (MMcB); Bay Shore (L. Nasta, K. Thompson), SPCP (K. Cashman); Shinn 7 Dec-18 Jan (AnW et seq.); MP 15 Feb (L. Nasta).

Common Eider: Max 1800 MP 6 Feb (BBo *et al.*).

"NORTHERN" COMMON EIDER: RMSP 16 Dec (SSM, ph.) and 20 Dec (PM), subadult male; JBWE 30 Jan (SSM et al., ph.), possibly the same as prev; RMSP 24 Dec (MMcB, ph.), different male; see p. 155; *intro*.

Harlequin Duck: 3 PL 6 Dec (T. Preston) thru; max count 7, 18 Jan (L. Sullivan); 3 MP 15 Dec (APe *et al.*); Moriches Bay 12 Dec (APe); Shinn 2 Dec-28 Jan (PD, L. Betti et seq.); 2 Orient Pt 15 Feb (JSep); Gardiner's Is 19 Dec (AnW).

Surf Scoter: max 500 Elizabeth A. Morton NWR (SUFF) 3 Jan (M. Stokowski *et al.*).

White-winged Scoter: max 2100 Cedar Pt CP 14 Jan (PJL, SSM).

Black Scoter: max 1200 Shagwong Pt SUFF 19 Dec (TH, T. Dunn).

Long-tailed Duck: max 450 MP 6 Feb (TJS *et al.*).

Bufflehead: max 439 PBP 22 Feb (R. Aracil).

Common Goldeneye: max 300 FDR Boardwalk and Beach RICH 12 Feb (J. Ramírez-Garofalo).

Barrow's Goldeneye: Kings Pt NASS 5 Dec (MMcB); East Setauket SUFF 1-15 Dec (L. Betti); CMB 4 Dec-8 Feb (BBo et seq; presumed returning male; 2 present 13 Dec, A. Gilbert); Gardiner's I 19 Dec (TJS), 7 Jan (A. Farnsworth); Goldsmiths In SUFF 28 Dec-18 Jan (A. Ratray et seq.); 2 Orient Pt 23 Dec (J. Levin); Cedar Pt CP SUFF 26 Dec-24 Jan (CG); Mashomack Pres 26 Dec (D. Cartwright); Sammy's Beach SUFF 7 Feb (AColl).

Hooded Merganser: max 240 HLSP 2 Jan (S. Meyerheinrich *et al.*); notable total 1387 2 Jan, S. Nassau CBC ("all-time high").

Common Merganser: max 81 L. Ronkonkoma 5 Jan (F. Mutchnick, S. Mutchnick); notable count 12 PBP 3 Dec ("all-time high," P. Horan).

Red-breasted Merganser: max 364 Oak Beach SUFF 20 Dec (Captree CBC: PD, L. Betti).

Ruddy Duck: max 1350 Quantuck Creek, Southampton 28 Jan (B. Young).

Ring-necked Pheasant: Ocean Breeze P RICH 24 Jan (ACi); 4 SMNC 11 Dec (A. Bacchiochi); Shirley Chisholm SP KING 16 Jan (M. Bivona); FMCP 2 Feb (K. Blouse); Rockaway Beach QUEE 14 Dec (CF); Smithtown SUFF 11 Feb (K. Chayes); multiple sites in e. SUFF probably released (*intro*).

Wild Turkey: 3 sites in BRON, ca. 20 in RICH; ca. 100 in SUFF (notable count 41, Sagaponack 22 Jan. [S. Mutchnick]); max 129 Seaview Ave RICH 19 Jan (A. Romua).

Pied-billed Grebe: at 6 sites in RICH, 1 NEWY, 2 BRON, 8 KING (max 4, PP 10 Dec, D. Halle), 6 QUEE, 9 NASS, 27 SUFF.

Horned Grebe: max. 83 GKP 14 Dec (R. Veit).

Red-necked Grebe: WPP 20 Feb (ACi); PBP BRON 11 Feb (P. Horan); 6 sites in KING, max 5 Manhattan Beach 31 Jan (HL); BPt 26 Dec (R. Serio); RP 16 Jan (BF); FMCP 8-12 Dec (D. Schulman *et al.*); PL/JBWE 24 Dec-2 Jan (R. Haimes et seq.), 10 sites in SUFF.

Eared Grebe: 1 JBWR, 3-10 Dec, continuing from Nov. (CF et seq.).

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: GCH 3 Dec -4 Jan (J. Ross, AColl); likely this sp but still under review by NYSARC.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Clapper Rail: JBWR 19 Dec (DGo and R.Gochfeld); SMNC 16 Jan (H. Sullivan); Cow Meadow P NASS 2 Jan (MMcB); 15 Feb (J. Gaglione); Short Beach P SUFF 27 Dec (R. Gostic); W. Sayville 20 Dec (K. Thompson); Wading River SUFF 4 Feb (R. Gostic); Orient Beach P 26 Dec (BBo. TJS); DR multiple records to 31 Jan; Ponquogue Bridge SUFF 31 Jan (AColl).

Virginia Rail: River Rd RICH 1 Jan (ACi); 2 High Rock P RICH 31 Jan (J. Levandosky); Mass 2 Jan (S. and M. B. Billerman); 11 sites in SUFF, incl Lily Pd CP 28 Feb (PD and K. Coyle) and William Floyd Estate 27 Dec (ML Lamont).

Common Gallinule: Mill Pond P, Bellmore NASS 4 Dec (J. Landesberg)-28 Feb (*intro*).

Sandhill Crane: JFK Sanctuary, Tobay Beach NASS 26 Feb (W. Becker, ph.).

American Oystercatcher: Trapp House RICH 24 Feb (M. Shanley); 2 Plumb Beach KING 6-22 Dec (J. Salas); BPT 15-21 Dec (M. Yu. HL); 2 Rockaway Beach QUEE 28 Feb (T. Remy); 2 Silver Pt CP NASS 20 Dec (R. Dieterich); multiple records JBWE, max 12, 1 Jan (PJL, SSM), to 3 Feb (4, V. Glasser).

Black-bellied Plover: many reports in NASS, also KING, QUEE, SUFF; max 160 PL 14 Jan (T. Johnson *et al.*).

Semipalmated Plover: FBF 10 and 24 Jan (T. Preston, M. Epstein); 6 JBWE 10-14 Jan (B. Belford, M. Ventresca et seq.).

Piping Plover: 2 RMSP 25 Feb. (D. Cartwright).

Ruddy Turnstone: 26 sites in RICH, KING, NASS, SUFF; max 150 Napeague Harbor SUFF 14 Feb (P. Sweet).

Red Knot: FBF 30 Jan (T. Preston); 13 BPT 16 Feb (DGo); 4 Jamaica Bay islands 20 Dec (M. Benoit); 5 NB 3 Jan (GB); PL *thru*, max 23 31 Jan (S. Camillieri *et al.*); JBWE several dates, max 20 13 Dec (Y. Hahn); many reports Shinn to 26 Feb, max 14 10 Jan (M. Scheibel), also 19 Jan (D. Cartwright).

Sanderling: notable counts 240 BPT 14 Feb (C. Allieri); 465 Silver Pt CP NASS 20 Dec (DGo *et al.*); 300 JBWE 5 Jan (J. Lee, C. Bernlach); 250 RMSP 25 Feb (D. Cartwright); 240 Smith

Pt CP 10 Jan (K. Cashman); 1020 Gardiner's I. 19 Dec (AnW).

Dunlin: notable counts 290 BPT 16 Feb (DGo); 1500 NB 2 Jan (ABk); 2500 PL 8 Jan (J. McGowan); 300 DR 9 Feb (K&SF).

Purple Sandpiper: max 100 JBWE 25 Feb (A. Honeywood & D. Smith); records from BRON (PBP, max 3 15 Feb, P. Horan), KING (6 sites, max 28 Manhattan Beach 14 Feb, T. Preston), QUEE (9 sites, single digits), NASS (4 sites), SUFF (19 sites, max 23 Cedar Beach 17 Jan, M. Scheibel).

Least Sandpiper: GKP 19 Dec (K. Replogle), 1 Jan (E. Johnson).

Short-billed Dowitcher: Amityville Creek SUFF 5 Dec (MMcB, ph.).

Long-billed Dowitcher: 2 Oceanside, So. Nassau CBC 2 Jan (S. Walter, ph.).

Wilson's Snipe: many reports RICH, NEWY, KING, QUEE, NASS, SUFF; max 18 GCH 30 Jan (AColl) and 13 Feb (M. Doyle).

Spotted Sandpiper: Hendrix Creek QUEE 19 Dec (J. Malbin).

Lesser Yellowlegs: Goethals Bridge Pd RICH 6 Feb (R. Veit), OMNSA, So. Nass CBC 2 Jan (K. Fessler *et al.*).

Greater Yellowlegs: KING (2 sites), QUEE (8 sites), NASS (6 sites, thru), SUFF (17 sites, max 28, 5 Dec Amityville Creek [MMcB]).

Dovekie: KINGS: Plumb Beach 16 Jan (R. Manian, D. Hrehowsik); Dead Horse Pt. 16 Jan (K. Ewing et seq.); 2 Marine Parkway Bridge 16 Jan (R. Mandelbaum); QUEE: 3 Riis Landing 22 Jan (BF); FT 16 Jan (R. Bate); Rockaway Beach 25 Dec (J. Simmons); NASS: PL 16 Jan (BBE); 9 JBWE 16 Jan (P. Markee *et al.*); SUFF: 3 RMSP 15 Jan (JG); 3 RMSP 16 Jan (MMcB *et al.*; also one caught by PEFA); Cupsogue CP 15 Jan (DF); singles Shinn on 13, 15, 16, 18 Jan (K. Munroe *et al.*); Mecox Bay 18 Jan (AColl); GCH 25 Dec (CG *et al.*); Indian Wells 7 Dec (AnW); singles at MP and environs 19 Dec, 24 Dec, 1 Jan, 14 Jan (3, SSM, PJL), 17 Jan.

COMMON MURRE: Shinn 30 Dec ("graichen & recer"), 5 Jan (P. Aitken); Jones In NASS 31 Dec (S. Camillieri *et al.*); RMSP 14 Feb (KF & SF), likely same bird found dead on beach RMSP 15 Feb (BBo), seen being consumed by PEFA (SSM, PJL).

THICK-BILLED MURRE: MP 16 Dec (APe), under review by NYSARC; Jones In NASS 31 Jan (KF&SF); Coney I KING 6 Feb (R. Jett et seq.); Page Ave Beach RICH 7 Feb (S. Wollney); Noyack 12 Feb (CG *et al.*).

Razorbill: from 1 Dec (75, MP, D. Cartwright) thru; BBP 28 Feb (S. Cherry); multiple sites in RICH, KING, QUEE, NASS, SUFF; notable counts 42 JBWE 15 Jan (E. Becher), 56 RMSP 15 Jan (JG), 13 Oldfield Pt SUFF north shore 14 Jan (APe), 26 Smith Pt CP 20 Dec (K. Cashman), max 450 MP 15 Dec (APe), 86 MP 86 (AColl), 49 MP 20 Feb (DF).

Black-legged Kittiwake: SUFF only: 13 RMSP 13 Dec (SSM), 11 RMSP 9 Dec (JG), 27 Feb (1, JG), Huntington Harbor 18 Dec (unusual loc., A. Leidig), Smith Pt CP 2 Dec (K. Cashman), Shinn 11 Dec (APe), 22 Dec (B. Bull), 23 Jan (P. Markee); multiple reports MP from 8 Dec: high counts 13, 16 Dec (APe), 8, 14 Jan (PJL, SSM), 8, 20 Feb (DF, MMcB).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 2300 BPT 13 Dec (R. Mandelbaum); high counts include 180 Manhattan Beach P KING 19 Dec (J. Giunta), 300 PL 30 Dec (BBE), 940 RMSP 7 Dec (SSM), 3418 RMSP 20 Dec (PM, SSM *et al.*: Captree CBC).

Black-headed Gull: Randall's I and CP NEWY 31 Jan-21 Mar (RBA); Ditch Plains SUFF 28-30 Dec (APe); Setauket/Oldfield 14 Dec (PD), 28 Dec, 30 Dec (probable return from previous years); JBWE 29 Dec (DF), 1 Jan; 2 JBWE 9 Jan (MMcB); BPT 27 Dec (CF *et al.*); Shirley Chisholm SP 27 Feb (R. Almonte, F. Murray); 2 imm at piers and PP KING 1 Dec (ABk), thru; ad Gravesend Bay to Plumb Beach (1 Dec 20 Feb, (L. Ewing et seq).

Laughing Gull: Many reports before 15 Dec; 1 Wolfe' Pond P RICH 27 Dec (ACi); Coney I Creek KING 25 Dec (DGo); FBF 25 Dec (DGo); Riis P (QUEE) 18 Dec (T. Remy); JBWE 24 Dec (C. Illemassene), 28 Dec (S. Billerman, M. B. Billerman); Valley Stream NASS 2 Jan (S. Blodgett); 3 HSP 30 Dec (M. Ferrara); 2 Amityville NASS 30 Dec (B. Edwards); MP 18 Dec (APe).

COMMON GULL: imm. Bush Army Terminal Pier 4 KING 7 Dec (ABk), continuing there to 28 Feb and in PP 9-25 Feb (DGo, m. ob.).

SHORT-BILLED GULL: ad Bush Army Terminal Pier 4 16 Dec (DGo).

COMMON/SHORT-BILLED GULL: ad Orient Pt SP 6 Feb (J. Sep, ph.).

Ring-billed Gull: max 2800 BBP 11 Dec (R. Gochfeld, DGo).

Iceland Gull: singletons at 4 sites in RICH, 2 NEWY (but 2 CP 13 Jan, D. Aronov), 3 KING, 4 QUEE, 2 NASS, 13 SUFF; max 3 CMB SUFF 23 Jan (JG).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 12 sites in RICH, 1 NEWY (Randall's I. 6 Jan, J. Keane), 9 KING (max 3 Plumb Beach 21 Feb, PP), 7 QUEE, 4 NASS, 24 SUFF (high counts 6 RMSP 1 Dec, KF & SF; 6 Smith Pt CP 13 Dec, (K. Cashman); 3 Ditch Plains 28 Dec (APe).

Glaucous Gull: RICH: 1 Ft. Wadsworth 24 Jan (ACi), 1 Olympic P 5 Feb (S. Wollney); KING: at least 2, multiple sites 5 Jan-13 Feb; NASS: Kings Pt 12 Jan (P. Shure); PL/JBSP 30 Dec (K. Munroe *et al.*), 19 Jan (B. Belford); SUFF: Cedar B 20 Dec (B. Van Doren *et al.*); CMB 6 Jan (KF&SF), 25 Jan (MMcB); 1 HSP 31 Dec (L. Nasta); Cedar Beach (Brookhaven) 7-16 Feb (MMcB et seq); Cupsogue CP 12 Dec (APe); Shinn 8 Dec (APe), 16 Jan (S. Biasetti); L. Montauk In 5 Jan (H. Akçakaya); Ditch Plains 28 Dec (L. DiNapoli *et al.*).

Herring X Glaucous Gull: Flax Pd, Oldfield SUFF 23 Dec (J. Nizza and eBird reviewer); CMB 13 Feb (TJS); BBP 25 Feb (M. Yu).

Great Black-backed Gull: max 375 CMB SUFF 13 Feb (TJS).

Royal Tern: FT 11 Dec (P. Sweet *et al.*); BPT 13 Dec (HL, M. Yu).

Black Skimmer: 13 juvs Ft. Wadsworth RICH 2 Dec (CB); 3 24-29 Dec (CB); 2 Jan (M. Shikman); ad. CIC KING 12 Jan (R. Payne).

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: max 250 MP 27 Dec (A. Weiss).

Common Loon: max 55 Shagwong Pt SUFF 19 Dec (T. Dunn, TH).

Northern Gannet: max 800 BPT 4 Dec (M. Yuan).

Great Cormorant: max 47 Fort Wadsworth RICH 12 Dec (ACi).

Brown Pelican: 1 IHP 16 Jan (D. Hannay *et al.*).

American Bittern: BBP 7-13 Dec (R. Aracil et seq.); Brant Pt Wildlife Sanctuary QUEE 7-8 Dec (Y. Cheng et seq.); JBWR 14 Dec (DGo); South Line I NASS 2 Jan (T. Preston, L. DeMarco); 4 Jan JBWE (WildLab); JFK Wildlife Sanctuary NASS 13-21 Feb (L. Wollerstein et seq.); Shirley Marina SUFF 26 Dec (B. Bull); Fireplace Neck Wetland SUFF 26 Feb (R. Haimes); DR 11 Jan-27 Feb (m.ob.).

Great Egret: 3 sites RICH, 1 Dec-1 Jan; Randall's I NEWY 2 Dec (E. Schwartz); 2 SMNC 8 Jan (L. Ewing), Shirley Chisholm SP KING 4 Dec-26 Jan (P. Sweet et seq.); 12 sites

in NASS, to 13 Feb; >37 sites in SUFF, many thru.

Snowy Egret: Westhampton 27 Dec (KF), Speonk 14 Jan (P. Aitken), Quogue Wetland Reserve 16 Jan (J. Rand, S. Biasetti).

Tricolored Heron: JBSP 2 Jan (TH).

Green Heron: Hendrix Creek KING 12-13 Jan (K. O'Hearn, HL, M. Epstein).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 1-2 birds at 1 site in RICH, 3 in NEWY, 1 in BRON, 4 in KING, 4 in QUEE; 11 sites in NASS (high counts 17 Hewlett Bay P 30 Dec [S. Blodgett], 42 Millburn Pd P 27 Jan [J. Landesberg], 58 Cammann's Pd, Merrick 2 Jan [MMcB]; 14 in SUFF (max 20 Ketcham's Creek Wetland 14 Dec (E. Mutchnick).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Randall's I NEWY 11 Dec-16 Jan (C. Jones et seq.); Cammann's Pond NASS 2-18 Jan (MMcB et seq.).

Black Vulture: 5 sites in BRON, to 25 Feb; 3 in NEWY (IHP 13 Feb; CP 29 Jan; 2 Tompkins Sq P 25 Feb); >20 sites in RICH (max 15 Amboy Rd 15 Dec, G. Bouquio); 3 sites in KING (to 21 Jan); 3 sites in SUFF (max 3, Riverhead 14 Feb, 3 Southampton 22 Jan).

Turkey Vulture: many sites throughout Region; max 50 Riverhead 15 Jan (J. Klein).

Osprey: Edgemere Landfill QUEE 20 Dec (CF et al.).

Northern Goshawk: Shinn 20 Jan (S. Biasetti).

Rough-legged Hawk: PBP 20 Dec (P. Horan); JBWR 21 Feb (J. Malbin); 1-2 BPT 12-14 Feb (J. Salas et seq.); Cow Meadow P NASS 2 Jan (MMcB); JBSP 27 Feb (J. Landesberg); 2 JFK Sanctuary NASS 13-26 Feb (L. Wollerstein et seq.); HSP 21 Feb (I. Thirkannad); SCFED 29 Dec (R. Shea); 3 EPCAL 17 Feb (PD et al.); 2 Shinn 17 Feb (E. Schwinn, M. Higgiston); North Fork LI 29 Dec (J. Rand); Orient 26 Dec (P. Polshek); Gardiner's I 19 Dec (AnW).

Snowy Owl: NEWY: 1 CP 27 Jan-27 Feb; KING: 3 sites; QUEE: 2 sites; NASS: JBWE (max 3, 27 Dec, V. Whitney et al.); SUFF: 11 sites (max 3, Smith Point CP 13 Dec, K. Cashman).

Barred Owl: BRON: 1 PBP 1 Dec-5 Jan (R. Aracil et al.); 1 neighborhood (eating rat) 11 Feb (S. Charles); NEWY:IHP 12 Dec 1 Jan (N. O'Reilly et seq.); Riverside Drive P 5 Dec-10 Jan (S. Chang et seq.); CP 2 Dec thru (m. ob.); 2 CP 13-17 Jan (D. Barrett, M. B. Kooper).

Long-eared Owl: IHP 13 Feb (D. Karlson et seq.); CP 15 Dec (D. B. Yelton et al.); JFK

Sanctuary NASS 2 Jan (S. Camillieri, M. Murgitroyd); HSP 9 Jan (D. LaMagna et al.).

Short-eared Owl: 3, Richmond Creek RICH 30 Dec (ACi); Shirley Chisholm SP KING 19 Dec (S. Nanz); Manhasset NASS 8-10 Feb (S. Perreault); JBWE 1-13 Jan (TJS et al.); DR 1 Jan (KF & SF et al.); Wainscott Pd SUFF 24 Feb (KF); EPCAL 31 Dec-27 Feb (m. ob.); Orient Beach SP 23-26 Dec (P. Polshek et seq.).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Governor's I NEWY 10-11 Dec (L. Beausoleil); CP 15 Feb (M. B. Kooper et al.); FBF 12 Dec (R. Payne); Mitchell's Creek NASS 3 Jan (MMcB); 3 JBWE 2 Jan (BBo, TJS); 12 Jan (A. Gilbert); 28 sites in SUFF, max 6 Napeague 19 Dec (APe).

Red-headed Woodpecker: WPP 25 Jan (S. Wollney); 1 or 2, Paumanok Trail, Manorville SUFF 2 Dec thru (m. ob.); Cedar Point CP SUFF 7 Jan-26 Feb (AColl et seq.).

Pileated Woodpecker: RICH: High Rock P (M. Shanley et seq., 23 Dec-27 Feb); Moravian Cemetery 7-23 Jan (ACi); Bucks Hollow 6 Feb (J. Ottesen); BRON: 1 VCP 16 Feb (M. Waldron). Uncommon in Region.

Monk Parakeet: 6 PBP 16 Jan (R. Aracil); 5 Bronx R Pkwy 22 Dec (BBo); Hudson Greenway NEWY 13 Dec (T. Olson), Battery P NEWY 1 Dec (T. Olson), Sixth St NEWY 22-24 Dec (L. Beausoleil); multiple sites, KING, max 30, GwC 28 Dec (P. Thompson); many sites in s NASS and sw SUFF, max 100 Merrick Rd P 23 Dec (M. Stubblefield).

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: 4 Dec Conference House P RICH (A. Ferino), GwC 6-13 Dec (R. Bate et al.); Bayswater P QUEE 2-3 Dec (L. Schepke); JBWE 13 Dec (S. Whitmore et al.); Nissequoque R SP SUFF 4-9 Dec (R. Cartwright et seq.).

Western Kingbird: Montauk Downs SP SUFF 19 Dec (BBo).

Eastern Phoebe: Olympia Blvd RICH 9 Jan (ACi); Stuyvesant Town NEWY 20 Dec-10 Jan (E. Goodman et seq.); Garden City NASS 18 Dec (P. Ioannidis); 16 sites in SUFF, to 21 Feb; 1-2 GCH, thru (m. ob.), observed catching fish (J. Ross); *intro* and see p. 125.

Blue-headed Vireo: 1 JBWE 13 Dec (L. Wollerstein, S. Whitmore).

Common Raven: abundant throughout, e.g. >21 sites in KING, ca. 20 on QUEE, >63 in

NASS, >150 in SUFF; max count 20, Flax Pd SUFF 4 Dec, perhaps near roost (N. Strycker).
Horned Lark: max 500 Sagg Main St, Bridgehampton SUFF 18 Dec (J. Fitzgerald, M. Stokowski).

Tree Swallow: BPt 30 Jan (CF *et al.*); 2 Floral Park NASS 14 Feb (K. Meyfahrt); Theodore Roosevelt Mem. P NASS 13 Dec (G. Campos); 4 JBSP 24 Feb (A. McInerney); 2 Overton Pres SUFF 23 Jan (A. Jordana); East Islip SUFF 15 Feb (E. Calamasso).

Tufted Titmouse: unusually high counts in city parks, max 101 CP 20 Dec (A. Burke, R. Zucker), 42 CP 17 Feb (L. Brock), 30 GwC 13 Dec (K. O'Hearn).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: many records throughout; high counts include 30, Paumanok Trail, Manorville SUFF 2 Dec (PD); 23 RMSP 11 Jan (KF & SF); 52 JBWE 2 Jan (S. Whitmore, L. Wollerstein); 36 JBWE 10 Jan (K. Munroe).

House Wren: Ocean Breeze P RICH 12 Dec (ACi); WPP 29 Dec (V. Koczurik); SMNC 12 Dec (HL); BBP 3 Dec (H. Wolf); Nissequogue R SP SUFF 4 Dec (R. Cartwright); Stony Brook 27 Dec, 8 Jan (K. Coyle).

Sedge Wren: Greenpoint Marsh SUFF 20 Dec (MMcB).

Marsh Wren: Oakwood Beach RICH 10 Dec (ACi); PBP 7 Dec (R. Aracil); 5 sites, 2 Jan, in NASS; 15 sites in SUFF, 1 Dec-20 Feb (GCH, D. Quinn, J. Rand).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: MP 1 Dec, 13 Dec, 1 Jan (R. Cartwright).

Veery: BBP 15 Dec, 19 Dec (H. Wolf *et al.*).

Swainson's Thrush: Union Square P NEWY 8 Dec (L. Schlesinger).

Wood Thrush: Bryant P NEWY 2 Dec-16 Feb (P. Shure).

VARIED THRUSH: Ridge (SUFF) 3-10 Feb (J. Burke).

Gray Catbird: February records at 8 sites in RICH, 9 in NEWY, 4 in BRON, 5 in KING, 9 in QUEE, 28 in SUFF, ca. 105 in SUFF.

Brown Thrasher: February records at 1 site in RICH, 1 in NEWY, 2 in BRON, 1 in KING, 1 in QUEE, 1 in NASS, 27 in SUFF.

Cedar Waxwing: max 150 IHP 1 Dec (N. O'Reilly).

American Pipit: high counts, by county: 10, GKP 2 Feb (A. Ferino), 1 PBP 27 Dec (m. ob.), 8 Manhattan Beach P KING 11 Dec (HL, M. Yu), 40 Edgemere Landfill QUEE 29 Jan (L. Schepke), 11 Baldwin Harbor P NASS 11 Jan (ABk), 60 Water Mill SUFF 23 Dec (M. Stokowski).

Evening Grosbeak: Moravian Cemetery RICH 13 Feb (ACi); 2 FBF 12 Dec (M. Epstein); Montauk airport 19 Dec (TH, T. Dunn); Camp Hero SP SUFF 19 Dec (CG); Stony Brook SUFF 31 Jan-4 Feb and beyond (N. Henderson *et al.*).

Purple Finch: single-digit counts only, in 12 sites in RICH, 2 in NEWY, 3 in BRON, 7 in KING, 3 in QUEE, 12 in NASS, 32 in SUFF, throughout period.

Common Redpoll: RICH: 6 sites, high counts 15 High Rock P 10 Feb (C. Barron), 21 Goethals Bridge P 24 Feb (J. Stetson); BRON: 3 sites, 1 or 2 each; NEWY: 2 sites, 1 or 2 each; KING: 7 sites, max 32 Plumb Beach 20 Feb (HJ Kim, B. Washburn); QUEE: 4 sites, max 2 APP 25 Jan (S. Walter); NASS 11 sites, max 32 Manhasset 20 Dec (S. Perreault); SUFF 27 sites, max 80 Caumsett SP 18 Jan (KF & SF).

Red Crossbill: single-digit counts at 3 sites in RICH, 2 in QUEE; 11 Dec-10 Jan FBF, max 19, 11 Dec (HL, M. Yu); many reports JBSP 21 Dec-26 Feb, high 28, 30 Dec (S. Billerman *et al.*), 57, 30 Dec (J. Wooten *et al.*); 20 sites in SUFF, high counts 80 RMSP 16 Jan (PJL, SSM), 60 RMSP 23 Feb (L. Wollerstein); reports throughout (1 Dec-24 Feb) at Paumanok Trail, Manorville (*see intro*).

White-winged Crossbill: Manhattan NEWY 31 Dec, 5 Jan, 21 Jan (C. Michel); 5 JBWE 4 Jan (A. Andersen); 3 HSP 7 Jan (JG, K. Coyle).

Pine Siskin: mostly single-digit counts at 8 sites in RICH (max 30 Staten Island Academy 26 Jan, M. Shanley), 8 in KING (max 22 GwC 22 Jan, P. Sweet), 10 in QUEE, 13 in NASS (max 46 Hume Estate 23 Dec, S. Miller), 29 in SUFF (max 25 Northport 6 Feb, J. Panzeca).

American Goldfinch: max 400 JBWE 7 Dec (S. Walter).

Lapland Longspur: 1 GKP 16 Dec (R. Veit); Plumb Beach KING 2 Jan (M. Yu); BPt 19 Dec (M. Epstein *et al.*); 1-2 NB 11 Dec-17 Feb (m. ob); JBWE 31 Dec-14 Feb (m. ob); 3 19 Dec (S. Yale); 1 RMSP 13-21 Feb (DF et seq).

Snow Bunting: all counties, many reports along shores. High counts 110 BPt 12 Jan (CF); 85 JBWE 18 Dec (E. Becher, W. Hollweg); 100 NB 12 Feb (P. Ribolow, A. Simmons); 173 RMSP 7 Dec (SSM); 90 RMSP 10 Feb (S. Mutchnick).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

SPOTTED TOWHEE: f found 2 Jan, Baldwin Harbor P NASS, PJJ, SSM; *intro* and see p. 126.

Eastern Towhee: 5 sites in RICH, 2 in BRON, 4 in NEWY, 7 in KING, 6 in QUEE, 12 in NASS, 62 in SUFF.

American Tree Sparrow: max 110 GKP 6 Dec (R. Veit).

Chipping Sparrow: single-digit reports from 6 sites in RICH, 4 in NEWY, 9 in KING, 6 in QUEE, 9 in NASS, 17 in SUFF, through to 28 Feb (GwC, K. Toomey).

Vesper Sparrow: Shirley Chisholm SP KING 10 Dec (A. Bacchiocchi), EPCAL 11 Dec (K. J. Klein), 7 Jan (MMcB), 8 Feb (B. Bull); 1 Sagaponack 14 Feb (TJS).

Lark Sparrow: FT 30 Jan-6 Feb (CF et seq.)

LeConte's Sparrow: WPP 19 Dec (M. Shanley [ph.] and CBC team, et seq. to 2 Jan); BPt 16 Feb (DGo); 17 Feb (CF, TH).

Seaside Sparrow: RICH 19 Dec (J. Ramírez-Garofalo, R. Zucker); 3 DR 31 Jan (AColl); 2 DR 13 Feb (J. Rand, S. Biasetti); 2 15 Feb (MMcB).

Nelson's Sparrow: DR 9 Dec (APe).

Saltmarsh Sparrow: DR 31 Jan (AColl).

Lincoln's Sparrow: CP 11 Dec-28 Feb (M. B. Kooper et seq.); Bryant P NEWY 20 Dec-12 Jan (A. Burke et seq.); Union Sq NEWY 1 Dec-8 Jan (E. Goodman); BBP 1 Dec (A. Bacchiocchi, R. McGrady); FT 19 Dec, 30 Jan (P. Sweet); JBWE 21 Dec (J. Wilson), 27 Dec (R. Zucker).

White-throated Sparrow: max 296 CP 20 Dec (A. Burke, R. Zucker).

White-crowned Sparrow: single-digit records (mostly single birds) at 2 sites in RICH, 2 in BRON, 3 in KING, 2 in QUEE, 3 in NASS, 27 in SUFF (max 10, Riverhead sod farms 28 Jan, E. Goodman).

Yellow-breasted Chat: FBF 13 Feb (HL, M. Yu); Jamaica Bay QUEE 19 Dec (anon. and E. Miller); MP 8-19 Dec (APe); Smith Point P 27 Dec (MMcB); Lindenhurst SUFF 14-27 Dec (E. Mutchnick).

Eastern Meadowlark: 5 sites in RICH (max 31 Freshkills P 17 Jan, J. Ramírez-Garofalo); 4 in KING (max 9 Shirley Chisholm SP 11 Feb, DGo); 1 in QUEE (10, Edgemere Landfill 29 Jan, L. Schepke); 3 in NASS (max 6 JBSP 19 Jan, V. Glasser); 12 in SUFF (max 35 EPCAL 13 Dec, N. Strycker).

Baltimore Oriole: single birds at 5 sites in NEWY (Dec only); 4 in KING to 21 Feb (R.

Mandelbaum) and 26 Feb (P. Sweet); 1 in QUEE (Powell's Cove 20 Dec, D. Schulman *et al.*); 9 in NASS, latest New Hyde Park 28 Feb (D. Cioffi); 4 in SUFF (latest GCH 28 Feb (AColl, B. Horwith)).

Red-winged Blackbird: max 1500 Horsemill La Southampton 9 Feb (C. Tiemann).

Rusty Blackbird: 4 sites in RICH (max 25 Staten I. 18 Feb, J. Stetson); 5 in BRON (max 16 BZ 27 Dec, T. Olson *et al.*); 2 in NEWY (1 CP thru, m. ob.); 4 in KING (singles, FBF thru, HL); 4 QUEE; 8 NASS (max 49 Shu Swamp 9 Dec, J. Wilson-Pines *et al.*); 26 in SUFF (max 27, Cedar Pt CP 9 Jan, AnW).

Common Grackle: many records throughout; high counts in e SUFF include 2000 Sound Avenue Pres 3 Dec (APe), 3200 EPCAL 13 Jan (BBc), 2260 Sag Harbor 6 Feb (BBc, TJS), 3000 Water Mill 10 Feb (CG).

Boat-tailed Grackle: 6 sites in RICH, 7 in QUEE (high counts 562 Charles Memorial P 20 Dec, R. Serio, 90 JBWR 7 Feb, CF); 9 in NASS (max 120 PL 1 Jan, S. and M. B. Billerman). 8 in SUFF (max 25 Captree SP 16 Jan, DF).

Ovenbird: In NEWY: single birds in City Hall P 6 Dec (C. McRea), Union Square P 7-17 Dec (A. Deutsch), Bryant P 18-20 Dec (m. ob.), Battery P 8-13 Dec (T. Olson), CP 19 Dec (A. Cunningham), Stuyvesant Town 22 Dec (R. Lulov), Madison Square P 8 Jan (C. McRea); 1 PP 19 Dec (M. Cook); 1 FMCP 19 Jan (L. Schepke); Stony Brook SUFF 18-20 Feb, ph, in snow (E. Maas).

Northern Waterthrush: FMCP 12-20 Dec (K. Mirth, I. Reznick); 1 Glen Cove NASS 6 Feb (M. Ventresca).

Tennessee Warbler: 1 IHP 1 Dec (M. Ross), 1 Randall's I (NEWY) 12 Dec-5 Jan (P. Shure et seq.); 1 Brooklyn Botanic Garden (KING) 13 Dec (A. Pufahi); 1 Spring Creek P (KING) 1 Dec (J. Malbin); 1 SMSP 2-11 Dec (KF & SF et seq.).

Orange-crowned Warbler: 4 sites in RICH (to 20 Feb), 4 in NEWY (to 12 Jan), 6 in KING (to 20 Feb), 5 in QUEE (to 26 Dec), 2 in NASS (to 2 Jan), 5 in SUFF (to 10 Jan).

Nashville Warbler: Fort Washington P NEWY 8 Dec (M. Ross); Randall's I NEWY 8 Dec (M. B. Kooper); Pier 44 (KING) 24 Jan (R. Fleming); FMCP 13 Dec (CF); East Quogue SUFF 7 Dec (E. Schwinn).

Common Yellowthroat: Cedar Grove Beach 13 Dec (R. Veit); Swindlers Cove P (NEWY) 9 Dec (B. Bolliett); CP 8 Dec (A. Vinson); BBP 11-18 Dec (C. Allieri); Brooklyn 19 Dec (J.

Malbin); JBWR 3 Dec (CF); FMCP 12 Dec (J. Keane); World's Fair Marina QUEE 7 Dec (D. Schulman); HSP 1 Dec (V. Glasser); Hubbard SUFF Dec (J. Rand); GCH 13 Jan (B. Horwith).

Cape May Warbler: CP 6 Dec (R. Zucker), 9 Dec (A. Deutsch); IHP 6 Dec (W. Andermann); East Hampton SUFF 3-5 Dec (M. Doyle, D. Quinn).

Northern Parula: Hendrix Creek KING 13 Dec (J. Malbin); Southards Pond P SUFF 11 Dec (V. Glasser).

Yellow Warbler: BPdP 12 Dec (CF).

Blackpoll Warbler: IHP 2-6 Dec (D. Karlson et seq.).

Palm Warbler: Mill Creek RICH 1 Dec (ACi); CP 11 Dec (M. B. Kooper); CUNY NEWY 13 Dec (K. Roberts); 5 sites in KING, December, also Calvert Vaux P 26 Jan (T. Preston), SMNC 27 Jan (HL) Roy Wilkins P QUEE 12 Dec (CF); Lido Beach Passive Nature Area NASS 7 Dec (B. Belford), 13 Dec

(DF); 9 sites in SUFF (all in Dec except 1 Northville 30 Jan, ML Lamont).

Pine Warbler: Midland Beach RICH 3 Dec (ACi); KING 28 Dec (J. Thorp), KING 19 Dec (J. Malbin); FMCP 17 Jan-21 Feb (CF); BPT 23 Feb (S. Elmaghrabi); 4 sites in NASS, to 31 Jan (Hicksville, J. Purchacki); 17 sites in SUFF (to 28 Feb, GCH, B. Horwith).

Wilson's Warbler: Hendrix Creek KING 16 Dec (J. Malbin); E. 259 Street BRON 22 Jan (S. Keeton, T. Graves).

WESTERN TANAGER: Montauk 6 Dec (V. Bustamante); W. 22 Street NEWY 5-17 Dec, 24 Feb (M. B. Kooper et seq.), thru (T. Fiore); Carl Schurz P NEWY 15 Dec thru (m. ob.).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Lattitown NASS 9 Jan (S. Shore, at feeder for two weeks before).

PAINTED BUNTING: Culloden Pt (SUFF 18-19 Dec (APE et seq.)

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Hoary Redpoll, with Common Redpolls, Willsboro Research Farm, *Essex*, 12 Dec 2020, © Derek Rogers.

REPORTING YOUR OBSERVATIONS

Observers are strongly encouraged to report their findings directly to the Regional Editors, to help identify significant trends. Summary reports of observations; impressions of notable patterns in the weather, timing of migration, unusual scarcity or abundance of particular species, etc.; and notable individual records are highly valued. For maximum usefulness, send in reports no later than the 15th day of the month following the end of each season:

15 March, 15 June, 15 September, and 15 December.

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in BOLD; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in UPPER CASE letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! – details seen by Regional Editor; ad – adult; alt – alternate plumage; arr – arrival or first of season; BBS – Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS – bird of the season; CBC – Christmas Bird Count; Co – County; I – Island; imm – immature; intro – see introduction to report; juv – juvenile; L – Lake; max – maximum; mob – multiple observers; Mt – Mountain; NYSDEC – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR – National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC – report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P – park; Pd – Pond; ph – photographed; Pres – Preserve; Pt – Point; Res – Reservoir; Ri – River; SP – State Park; spm – specimen; subad – subadult; T – Town of; thru – throughout period; Twn – township; WMA – Wildlife Management Area; y – young.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS CODES

These codes are listed in ascending order to highest breeding codes.

POSSIBLE: H – in appropriate habitat; S – singing bird.

PROBABLE: S7 – singing male present 7+ days; M – multiple (7+) singing males; P – pair in suitable habitat; T – territorial defense; C – courtship, display, or copulation; N – visiting probable nest site; A – agitated behavior; B – woodpecker/wren nest building.

CONFIRMED: PE – physiological evidence; CN – carrying nesting material; NB – nest building; DD – distraction display; UN – used nest; ON – occupied nest; FL – recently fledged and precocial young; CF – carrying food; FY – feeding young; FS – carrying fecal sac; NE nest with eggs; NY – nest with young.

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:

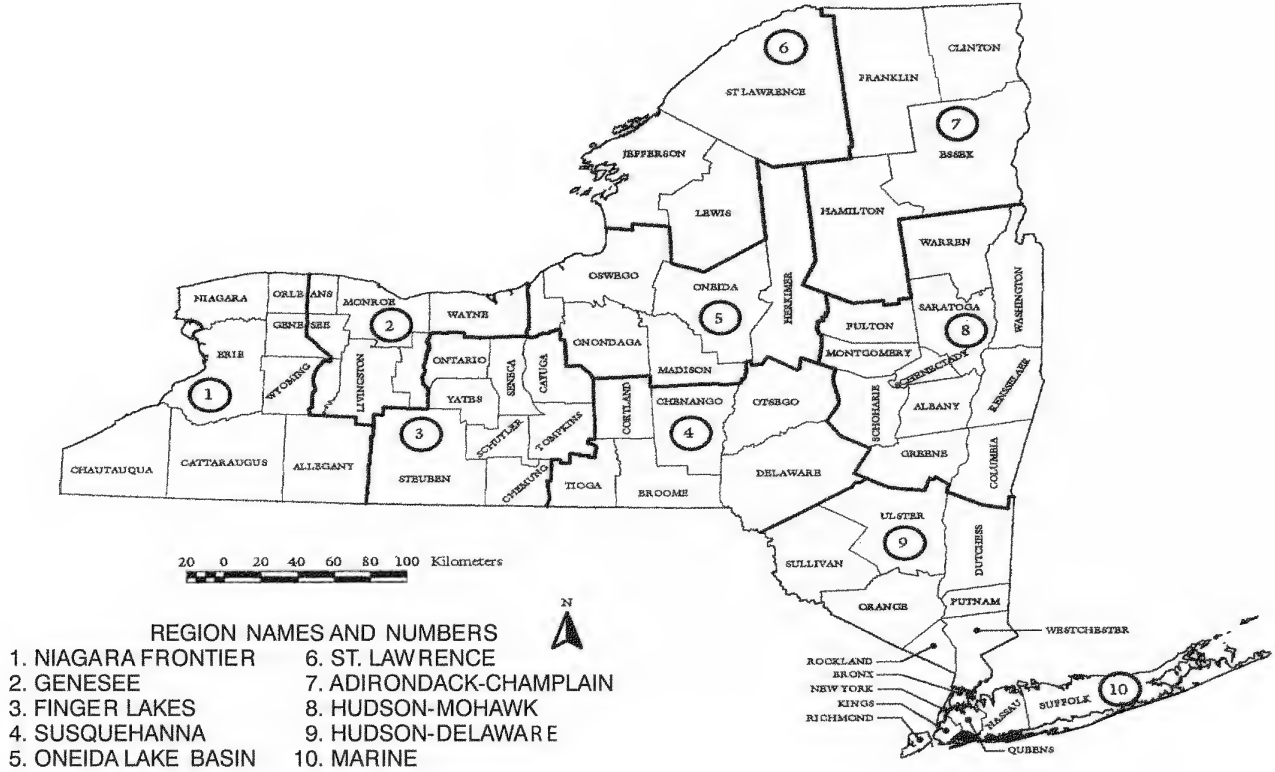
the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia; NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19 from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:

the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64 from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21 from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.



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CONTENTS

Colonization of the Rockaway Peninsula, Long Island by Bank Swallows (<i>Riparia riparia</i>) José R. Ramírez-Garofalo, Scott Solberg, Erin McGrath, Keelan Dann, and Dana Filippini	210
Patch Birding: Discovering new patches while atlasng Stacy Robinson	216
Highlights of the Season, Spring 2021 Michael F. Cooper	217
Spring arrival dates for 2021	221
Regional Reports	225
Photo Gallery Spring 2021	261
Standard Regional Report Abbreviations, Reporting Deadlines, and Map of Reporting Regions	315

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Front Cover – Eastern Kingbird, Braddock Bay East Spit, *Monroe*, 26 May 2021, © John Gordinier.

Back Cover – Eastern Kingbird, Empire State Trail, Maybrook Trailway, *Holmes, Dutchess*, 7 May 2021, © Chris Chappell.

COLONIZATION OF THE ROCKAWAY PENINSULA, LONG ISLAND BY BANK SWALLOWS (*RIPARIA RIPARIA*)

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Abstract— Bank Swallows (*Riparia riparia*) are Neotropical migratory birds that are in steep decline throughout North America. In 2016, we began monitoring a small colony in the sand dunes on the western end of the Rockaway Peninsula, Long Island, New York at Breezy Point Tip. Although we did not find that Bank Swallows at the Breezy Point colony reproduced successfully from 2016–2018, the number of pairs grew from one in 2016 to approximately 10 in 2019. At least three pairs reproduced successfully in 2019. This colonization event suggests that Bank Swallows may be attempting to breed in suitable habitat in coastal New York more regularly than is currently appreciated, even in locations frequented by birdwatchers. Further study and population assessment of Bank Swallows in coastal New York is needed, which can be facilitated by community science participation in research.

Bank Swallows are trans-hemispheric migrants that nest colonially in burrows dug into steep slopes comprised of fine-grained sediment (Turner and Rose 1989, Garrison 1999). In suitable habitat, they display high site fidelity (Freer 1979), though they often nest in ephemeral sites such as eroding cliff faces (Garrison 1999), which may be destroyed by hydrological processes. They are also known to nest in anthropogenic sites such as sand and gravel pits (Burke *et al.* 2019), and drainpipes (Ramírez-Garofalo pers. obs.; Buckley *et al.* 2018). In ocean-facing areas, Bank Swallows are likely vulnerable to sea-level rise as a result of climate change, which is causing degradation of suitable nesting habitat such as steep dune faces (IPCC 2019).

Bank Swallows reach their highest worldwide abundances in northeastern North America (Turner and Rose 1989), but are generally considered sensitive species throughout this region (e.g. they are listed as threatened in Ontario; Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry 2017). In New York, they are widespread but localized breeders (McGowan and Corwin 2008), and do not currently have any protected status outside of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act,

despite steeply declining trends statewide (McGowan and Corwin 2008) and throughout the region (Nebel *et al.* 2010, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry 2017). Historically, Bank Swallows were found in their highest numbers in the coastal regions, the shores of Lake Ontario, and in the Genesee and Hudson valleys (Eaton 1914, Griscom 1923). On Long Island, they were once found to be most abundant as summer residents along the south shore (Griscom 1923), but by the 1940s were considered to be more abundant and localized on the eastern end of the Island, and no longer common on the south shore (Cruickshank 1942). By later assessment, they were widespread local breeders upstate, and less numerous on Long Island (Bull 1974). Most recently, Long Island breeding colonies have been most numerous in bluffs on the east end and north shore, although sporadic nesting activity involving small numbers of birds has been observed on the Atlantic Ocean-facing beach near Moriches Inlet, Suffolk County (S. Mitra, pers. comm.). By the mid-1980s, colonies of more than 100 pairs were no longer being reported in New York (Levine 1998, McGowan and Corwin 2008), which coincided with a significant decline in the population of aerial insectivores in northeastern North America (Nebel *et al.* 2010, Smith *et al.* 2015, Imlay *et al.* 2018).

Bank Swallows bred sporadically in New York City during the early twentieth century, with colony-sites being found chiefly in the Bronx (Hix 1905, Eaton 1914, Kuerzi 1927, Buckley *et al.* 2018). By the 1940s, however, Bank Swallows were no longer found breeding within the city (Cruickshank 1942; Bull 1964, 1974), and were still absent by the time of the first New York State Breeding Bird Atlas Survey (1980–1985; Andrle and Carroll 1988). During the second atlas survey (2000–2005), they were found breeding on Hart Island in the Bronx, and on the south shore of Staten Island (McGowan and Corwin 2008, Buckley *et al.* 2018). They currently persist on Hart Island in small numbers, and have remained breeding birds since at least 2002 (Ramírez-Garofalo, unpubl. data).

Here, we describe the recent colonization of Breezy Point Tip on the Rockaway Peninsula, Queens, New York by Bank Swallows. Failed breeding attempts from 2016–2018 were followed by success in 2019, with at least five juveniles from at least three burrows being fledged by July. This suggests that management policies allowing natural erosion to occur unimpeded will benefit Bank Swallows on Long Island and coastal areas more generally.

METHODS

Study Area—Breezy Point Tip (40°55'58"N, -73°95'96"W), the western terminus of the Rockaway Peninsula, is a 200-acre area administered by the Jamaica Bay Unit of Gateway National Recreation Area (GNRA). Established in 1972, GNRA was the first urban national park in the United States and encompasses important natural and cultural resources, as well as recreational areas, in metropolitan New York and New Jersey (GNRA 2014). Breezy Point Tip is separated into two distinct sections: the Jamaica Bay-facing beach (hereafter “bayside”), and the

Atlantic Ocean-facing beach (hereafter “oceanside”). The bayside beach is relatively narrow and lined with steep sand dunes that are densely vegetated with American Beachgrass (*Ammophila breviligulata*), while the oceanside beach is wide, more sparsely vegetated, and lacks steep dunes. On both beaches, symbolic string fencing blocks public access to most of the backshore, foredune and backdune, which are designated as critical habitat for federally and state protected breeding birds such as the Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), and both the Common (*Sterna hirundo*) and Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*). The symbolic string fencing also helps minimize disturbance to species like the American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*), which do not currently have special protected-status, but regularly occupy the same habitat as species that do. Daily monitoring of the breeding birds at the Breezy Point Tip is conducted by GNRA volunteers and staff, who keep detailed notes and lists of other species found in the area.

Monitoring—From 2016–2019 we monitored Bank Swallows on the bayside beach at Breezy Point. Observations were made each year from May–August, with daily coverage from May–July, and weekly coverage during August. Burrow occupancy was determined by counting the number of burrows that appeared active. Active burrows generally had visible scratch marks at the entrance of the burrow, and appeared dark and un-ending to the naked eye. Since the number of burrows was small (< 20 per season), we were able to make an exact count of active burrows, unlike in a large colony where estimates are more common (e.g. Wright *et al.* 2011).

RESULTS

In June 2016, SS observed several Bank Swallows excavating burrows in the sand dunes on Breezy Point’s bayside beach (Figure 1a, p. 264). Throughout June and into July, one pair occupied a single burrow, and did not appear to fledge any young. The following June, SS again found Bank Swallows nesting in the area, this time farther back behind the symbolic fencing where the dunes were steepest. The colony peaked at four pairs in 2017, and like the previous year there was no evidence that they had fledged any young. On 24 May 2018, we found five active burrows, one of which was determined to be active based on fresh claw-marks and loose sand at its entrance. During the months of June and July, we monitored the small colony, which peaked at 10 active burrows and about 10 partially dug burrows in mid-June. On multiple occasions, swallows were observed carrying nesting material into the burrows, but no young were found. On 21 July, a nor’easter brought heavy rainfall, flooding, and wind gusts upwards of 40 mph to the area, causing the dune faces to be reshaped. Following the storm, none of the remaining swallow burrows were occupied, although some swallows did seem to remain in the area for the following week. In 2019, we found ten active burrows by 10 June, with a total of five young being fledged from at least three of the

burrows by 1 July. The COVID-19 pandemic prevented us from surveying the Bank Swallow colony during the 2020 breeding season due to National Park Service (NPS) research policies, however, three pairs were observed on 30 May, and on 1 July, at least 10—and potentially up to 20—individuals were seen at the colony, though the number of active burrows were not counted (S. Sime, pers. comm.).

DISCUSSION

The Breezy Point Bank Swallow colony appears to have benefited from the closure of the area surrounding the dunes to foot traffic and off-road vehicles during the breeding season. Regulations put in place to protect critical habitat for nesting threatened and endangered species restricts access to the dunes within the Jamaica Bay Unit of GNRA (GNRA 2018), indirectly protecting species that are susceptible to human disturbance like Bank Swallows. NPS policy also requires natural shoreline processes like erosion to be allowed to take place unimpeded in most circumstances (NPS 2006). This policy ultimately allows for the natural creation of suitable habitat for Bank Swallows, which rely on freshly eroded slopes to dig their nesting burrows (Freer 1979, Garrison 1987, 1999; Turner and Rose 1989, Heneberg 2001). On Long Island, where Bank Swallows were historically very abundant, areas along the south and north shores are frequently subject to bank stabilization measures to protect private property. Throughout North America, Bank Swallows are threatened by erosion mitigation measures (Garrison 1999, Moffatt *et al.* 2005, McGowan and Corwin 2008, Silver and Griffin 2009), and it is likely that these measures will continue to limit their success on Long Island and along the coast, particularly as sea levels rise throughout the 21st century.

The data reported in this paper give the first records of Bank Swallows breeding in Queens County, New York. Although Bank Swallows were first found nesting at Breezy Point in 2016, it is possible that they have nested there in the past and have gone undetected. For example, on over 100 consecutive days of observations from both the bayside and oceanside beaches during the 2018 breeding season, we rarely detected Bank Swallows outside of the immediate vicinity of their colony site. The issue of colony detectability has also come up in surveys of Bank Swallows in The Bronx and on Staten Island. For example, during the 2018 survey period there was one colony on Staten Island's east shore that was not found until late in the breeding season when most Bank Swallows had already left their colony-sites (Ramírez-Garofalo, unpubl. data). Similarly, in The Bronx, Bank Swallows were found nesting on Hart Island during the second New York State Breeding Bird Atlas, but were not explicitly reported again until 2021, when surveyors were able to view the colony from a boat.

Surveys of known Bank Swallow colonies should be undertaken to further determine their population status on Long Island and throughout New York. Specifically, counting the number of burrows, as opposed to just the number of

swallows, would be particularly useful for status assessment. During the third New York State Breeding Bird Atlas, participants have the opportunity to collect these data, though the Atlas itself does not require it. A more in-depth and geographically widespread study of Bank Swallows in New York may be the perfect opportunity for increasing participation by both atlasers and interested parties in scientific study of New York's avifauna. Monitoring programs in Canada and the state of California provide us with ample direction and information on estimating colony size via the number of apparently active burrows. Current efforts on Staten Island, New York are investigating colony site fidelity and colony persistence (longevity of a colony at a specific site), which are now being expanded to include other colony sites in New York City and Long Island (Ramírez-Garofalo unpubl. data).

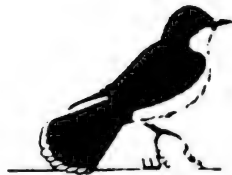
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PATCH BIRDING DISCOVERING NEW PATCHES WHILE ATLASING

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You might be a patch birder if... you know that the first American Woodcock begins his flight display in the hawthorn grove on or about the 15th of March. If you have located the resident fox den and know how many kits they will be feeding this spring and when the wild columbine is expected to be in full bloom. You will be certain you have established your own patch when you have subdivided it and given portions of the property names like Red Bird Lane, Indigo Corners, and the Bobolink Field. I became a “patch birder” before I had ever heard that expression. As a budding new birder, I began birding the same locations in and around Crown Point State Historic Site on a very regular basis back in 2012. Initially, I was attracted to the variety of habitats the property offered and its proximity to my home. Before I knew it, I was adding to the eBird database for this hotspot and secretly celebrating each new species found.

Were there any other benefits to my returning over and over to the same location? I became familiar with each species’ chosen habitat, desired food sources, and nesting locations. I learned where to find certain birds in a given area of the property and began to make the all-important connections between habitat, vocalizations, and field marks for each resident bird. I grew as a birder by simply birding my patch with regularity. I began to formulate expected dates for migrants passing through and the returning nesters. I enjoyed seeing the impressive consistencies in arrival dates and grieved the egress of birds as they moved southward each fall. Although I will never claim to keep records of each species’ departure dates, their absences were quickly realized because I had formed a connection to my patch and its nesting birds.

Additionally, if I missed out on a Philadelphia Vireo sighting in spring migration I knew where to hunt for one after Labor Day. In the second week of October, I should position myself out in front of the main parking lot and scan for flocks of Brant flying down Lake Champlain. In mid-May checking the apple trees on the property will be rewarded with sweet blossoms humming with bees and Tennessee Warblers alike. An evening walk in late August might offer a Common Nighthawk flyover. From August thru November the standing waters under the Champlain Bridge become a stopover for shorebirds and as the fall migration progresses Coffin Point will become a gathering spot for diving ducks. Even before I had read about last season’s Red-breasted Nuthatch irruption, I was already taking note of their marked increase throughout the grounds. During last winter’s super flight, the cone bearing spruces on the property successfully attracted both Red and White-winged Crossbills, and small groups of Pine Grosbeaks. Additionally, cheery Redpolls flitted over the open areas with flocks of Snow Buntings. Yes, even winter birding in one’s patch can be rewarding.

With the third NYS Breeding Bird Atlas in full swing the opportunity to find a patch of your own has been simplified. Last spring, I signed up for a priority block twenty minutes from my home. Atlasing this block has been a truly wonderful experience and a new patch within the block has emerged. I find myself returning to my newfound patch hoping to glean a new species and to observe breeding successes. This isn't an isolated experience. Living in the northeast corner of the state where birders are few and unclaimed priority blocks numerous, I have spread myself around a fair bit, exploring and observing breeding behaviors in unassigned atlas blocks in both Essex and Clinton Counties. In every block I've visited inevitably there is an appealing patch deserving of a dedicated patch birder.

So, here's a suggestion: if you haven't yet submitted a checklist for the Breeding Bird Atlas we have three full years left to do so. It's easy, fun, and rewarding! During the upcoming quieter winter months take the opportunity to check out the BBA website <https://ebird.org/atlasny/home>. You may already be enjoying a patch of your own or are thinking of laying claim to a patch. So, consider this—why not add your sightings to the data being collected for this citizen science project? The birds give us so much, this is a great way for us to give back!



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON—SPRING 2021

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The spring season of 2021 saw a rebound from late winter's below average temperatures, as March came through with unseasonable warmth across the state. April temps were also above average, while nearly everyone reported a slightly cooler than average May. April was a bit wetter than usual, otherwise it was a fairly dry spring.

Many species which normally move through in the early days of spring were present in good numbers and on early dates, and quite a few others which normally arrive later in April or May were also well ahead of schedule. Several observers noted that the May movement was less impressive, some mentioning advanced leaf-out or cooler May temperatures. Overall, it seemed that there were more positive comments about the birding in the first two months, while May didn't really monopolize the birding reports as it usually does. Jeff Bolsinger in Region 6 mentioned two periods, one beginning 30 March and ending 10 April, and the other from about 28 April to 5 May, that accounted for all of their record early dates this spring.

The western Regions provided a good waterfowl showing, with Snow Goose and Tundra Swan numbers eliciting positive comments. A high one-day count of

151,400 Snows at Derby Hill must have provided a dazzling spectacle. Ross's and Greater White-fronted Geese were widely reported, and Cackling Geese seem to be achieving "expected" status in western Regions. Two Pink-footed Geese, one in Region 8, the other in Region 10, were nice rarities, but were outdone by a Tundra Bean Goose found in two locations in Region 8 in mid-March. This may have been the same individual that birders in Pennsylvania and elsewhere in the northeast detected this spring. Pending acceptance by NYSARC, this will constitute a first New York State record. Good numbers of Tundra and Trumpeter Swans were reported, concentrated as expected in the more western Regions.

Some high counts for ducks included 1500 Northern Pintail at Northern Montezuma WMA in Region 2, 20,000 Canvasback and 60,000 (!) Redhead at Cayuga Lake SP in Region 3. The "regular" rarities were well represented, with Tufted Ducks in Regions 3 and 7, and scattered Barrow's Goldeneye, Harlequin Ducks and King Eiders. Guesstimating from reports, it appears that there were about 15-20 Eurasian Wigeon statewide.

A Eurasian Collared-Dove spent several days in mid-March in the same Region 1 yard that last year hosted a White-winged Dove. Over in Region 2, a White-winged Dove was photographed on 8 May for a fifth Regional record. Decent numbers of both cuckoos were scattered across the state, with an early Black-billed recorded at Central Park in Region 10 on 19 April. Common Nighthawks and Eastern Whip-poor-wills were widespread, but in low numbers. Chimney Swifts put in April appearances across the state, but birds on 21 March in Region 10 and 29 March in Region 2 were exceptionally early.

Sandhill Cranes continue to colonize the state, with multiple birds in just about every Region. Shorebird numbers were a mixed bag, with some Regions, like Region 7, reporting good habitat but disappointing numbers. Meanwhile David Wheeler in Region 5 mentioned that 20 species was around the maximum variety to be expected there. Region 1 also had a nice selection of shorebirds—highlights there included a Black-necked Stilt and a Ruff, and several Wilson's Phalaropes, including a pair that seemed to be getting ready to nest before they eventually moved on. Region 5, meanwhile, provided the only Hudsonian Godwit report for the state. Three non-coastal Regions reported Piping Plovers, including what was considered to be three different birds in Region 2. Also away from the tidewater regions, there were widespread reports of Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Sanderling, and Willet. Six Regions reported Wilson's Phalaropes, while three reported Red-necked Phalaropes.

Laughing Gulls were scattered across the upstate areas, but a Franklin's in Region 3 was a bit more surprising. Winter gulls lingered in decent numbers in several Regions, with May records for Iceland in Region 1, and both Iceland and Glaucous lingering into May in Regions 2 and 5. Little Gulls were reported from two upstate Regions, while Region 10 recorded the only Black-headed Gulls—at least seven different individuals. Lesser Black-backed Gulls continue to take their place among the "normal" avifauna of the state, with most Regions reporting multiples. A Common Gull lingered in Brooklyn (Region 10) into early March.

A Least Tern in Region 2 was just the second spring record for that species. Caspian Terns were early arrivals in several Regions, with Region 2 recording its first on 28 March, and several Regions seeing them within the first 10 days of April. A high count of ten Arctic Terns on 31 May was exceptional, even for Cupsogue County Park, one of the most reliable sites to find them in New York. The only tubenoses reported were all seen from an offshore research vessel on 15 May, highlighted by a Northern Fulmar.

An immature Wood Stork found in Westhampton (Region 10) on 4 May was part of a widespread irruption of southern waders into the northeast and upper midwest and provided the first Long Island record since 1962. A few Snowy Egrets were scattered around upstate, and one Little Blue Heron was “poached” by Region 1 birders as it made an appearance on the Canadian side of the Niagara River.

Ospreys generally arrived around the third week of March as expected. Golden Eagles were found in nine Regions, including one on Long Island where it is still quite a rarity. Mississippi Kites seem to be on their way as regular visitors to the state, with two birds in Region 2 passing the Braddock Bay Hawk Watch, and singles in Regions 8 and 10. A Swainson’s Hawk was also noted at the Braddock Bay watch. A bird that was photographed as it passed Derby Hill in Region 5 appears to have been an extremely rare Red-tailed x Red-shouldered Hawk hybrid. The fantastic Ferruginous Hawk mentioned in the Region 9 winter report was noted as late as 13 March. Snowy Owls were scattered across the state, with two birds lingering into late May, one in Region 6 and the other in Region 8.

Two Pileated Woodpeckers were video-recorded at a private home in Mattituck in early spring, an exceptionally rare species in Suffolk County. White-eyed Vireos showed up in several upstate Regions, where rare, and what was apparently a Yellow-throated x Blue-headed Vireo hybrid in Region 5 provided an exceptionally rare observation. A Boreal Chickadee in Albany County in Region 8 was well outside of its expected range.

A record was set this spring when eight species of *Hirundinidae* were recorded in the state, including two (!) additions to the state list! On 22 April a Violet-green Swallow was photographed at the Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Preserve in Region 8 but could not be relocated afterwards. Although this species seems as if it should be a regular vagrant to the east, in fact there are just a handful of records. This record came a few weeks after a neotropical martin was located at Prospect Park in Brooklyn, Region 10. This bird was considerably more cooperative, and remained at that location for four days, during which it was seen and photographed by hundreds of birders. At this point, it seems that the identification has been made as Gray-breasted Martin, apparently the third North American record, and obviously a New York State first.

Just to touch again on early arrivals, there were many reports of record-setting passerines. To mention a few, a Cliff Sallow at Montezuma NWR in Region 3 on 31 March was about two weeks ahead of any others in the state; a Lincoln’s Sparrow in Region 1 on 19 March was about a month ahead of schedule; and an

Olive-sided Flycatcher on 6 May in Region 3 and another on 29 April in Region 10 were exceptional. Jeff Bolsinger in Region 6 mentions eight species of passerines setting or equaling record early dates. Region 10 also recorded its first March record for Northern Parula and a Veery on 31 March is early enough to suggest that it may have wintered somewhere in the states.

As would be expected during any migration period, there were many exciting rarities to be found among the passerines. A Harris' Sparrow in Region 1 was the only one reported in the state, while a Black-throated Gray Warbler there was matched by one at the opposite end of the state on eastern Long Island (see photos, p. 264 and p. 314). A male Painted Bunting at a Chenango County feeder in Region 4 was the top bird in that area. A Western Tanager lingered on in Region 10, a holdover from the winter season as was a Varied Thrush, also in Region 10. A Western Meadowlark was audio recorded in Region 4.

Adding to the spice of the spring season, a nice selection of winter finches continued on beyond February. Red Crossbills and Common Redpolls were especially widespread and numerous, and seven Regions reported Hoary Redpolls as well. Smaller numbers of White-winged Crossbills were found, and even some Pine Grosbeaks made it into early March. The ever popular Evening Grosbeak was well represented, with counts of over 100 in Regions 5 and 8 right into May.

In spite of these moments of excitement, the overall picture of the spring landbird migration was pretty mixed. David Wheeler in Region 5 says "Most long-time observers agreed it was an epically poor warbler migration year, with small numbers and few good days." In Region 9, John Haas called this "a prolonged migratory season with lower numbers of birds in at least some areas." Generally, news regarding breeding birds in decline is considered dire, as in the case of three open-country species mentioned in the Region 6 report, but Brendan Fogarty's report on declining numbers of Mute Swans in Region 10 will probably be greeted as a positive by most birders.

Anyone not familiar with the use of MOTUS tags for wildlife tracking may want to have a look at the Region 5 report. The information presented is pretty fascinating. Surely these recent technologies will be expanding our knowledge of bird movement in ways that seemed impossible until now.

I think it's safe to say that the presence of four different state firsts in one season was unprecedented. The Tundra Bean Goose, Violet-green Swallow and Gray-breasted Martin constitute three additions to the state list (W. D'Anna, pers. comm.), and the lingering Ferruginous Hawk was still available to be ticked for spring 2021. Clearly in any normal year, any of these should qualify as Bird of the Season. But since I'm under strict orders to make a selection, I think I have to go with Gray-breasted Martin. Only two previous ABA area records exist, both of birds collected in south Texas in the 1880s. This extremely cooperative bird made itself available to hundreds of people over several days and generated a ton of discussion among birders and some good publicity in the non-birding community. A great find by one of our most talented local birders, and a great

learning opportunity for those lucky enough to be present as the identification points were worked over.

Thanks for reading and check out those Regional reports!

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Much of the data in the Regional reports is sourced from eBird:
eBird Basic Dataset. Version: EBD_relMay-2021. Cornell Lab of Ornithology,
Ithaca, New York. May 2021.

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SPRING ARRIVAL DATES FOR 2021

Region	Species Evaluated ¹	Region vs. NYS ²	2021 vs. Avg 1987-2020 ³	Region vs. Prev. Year	Record Early Spp.
1	91	-2.30	-5.23	-0.08	6
2	93	-1.27	-3.19	-0.91	4
3	92	-1.58	-3.92	1.26	6
4	92	-0.43	-7.42	-0.93	10
5	92	-0.09	-4.27	-1.54	6
6	91	5.68	-4.67	-0.60	9
7	88	7.11	-4.73	-1.07	9
8	89	2.45	-3.92	0.80	0
9	92	-4.64	-8.48	-0.04	2
10	83	-4.94	-6.83	0.78	7

¹Maximum number of species = 93; a species might not be evaluated in a Region if over-wintering birds obscured the arrival of migrants, or if the species was not detected at all during the season.

²Average arrival in a Region compared to the average of all Regions, in 2021 (days).

³Average arrival in a Region compared to that Region’s long-term average, 1987-2020 (days).

Given difficulties in evaluating arrivals of some species in some Regions, comparisons among Regions should be undertaken with caution.

Spring Arrival Dates 2021. Dates in bold font indicate record-early arrivals for the Region.													
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	NYS Avg	Avg 1987-2021	
Wood Duck	23 Feb	8 Mar	25 Feb	1 Mar	28 Feb	3 Mar	6 Mar	28 Feb	12 Feb	24 Feb	27 Feb	9 Mar	
Blue-winged Teal	21 Mar	24 Mar	23 Mar	9 Mar	22 Mar	2 Apr	22 Apr	12 Mar	19 Mar	21 Mar	23 Mar	27 Mar	
Northern Pintail	28 Feb	26 Feb	28 Feb	5 Mar	26 Feb	9 Mar	1 Mar	24 Feb	16 Feb		27 Feb	5 Mar	
Green-winged Teal	1 Mar	12 Feb	7 Mar	5 Mar	10 Mar	9 Mar	11 Mar	3 Mar	24 Feb		2 Mar	12 Mar	
Black-billed Cuckoo	15 May	15 May	4 May	16 May	5 May	16 May	16 May	10 May	4 May	19 Apr	9 May	11 May	
Common Nighthawk	16 May	15 May	17 May	25 May	20 May	19 May	14 May	15 May	14 May	5 May	16 May	12 May	
Chimney Swift	27 Apr	29 Mar	17 Apr	27 Apr	25 Apr	2 May	5 May	17 Apr	20 Apr	21 Mar	18 Apr	24 Apr	
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	27 Apr	1 May	30 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr	4 May	3 May	29 Apr	25 Apr	19 Apr	28 Apr	1 May	
Virginia Rail	8 Apr	2 Apr	10 Apr	19 Mar	4 Apr	25 Apr	10 Apr	3 Apr	13 Mar	10 Apr	4 Apr	14 Apr	
Sora	17 Apr	13 Apr	11 Apr	25 Apr	17 Apr	18 Apr		13 Apr	19 Apr	27 Apr	17 Apr	27 Apr	
Common Gallinule	6 Apr	10 Apr	11 Apr	30 Apr	10 Apr	10 Apr	13 May	19 Apr	18 Apr	12 May	19 Apr	24 Apr	
Black-bellied Plover	6 May	29 Apr	11 May	15 May	4 May	27 May	29 May	29 May	17 May		15 May	14 May	
Semipalmated Plover	10 May	12 May	9 May	10 May	5 May	18 May	13 May	12 May	11 May	2 May	10 May	9 May	
Killdeer	24 Feb	27 Feb	5 Feb	3 Mar	23 Feb	1 Mar	20 Feb	22 Feb	13 Feb	17 Feb	21 Feb	3 Mar	
Sanderling	22 May	25 May	22 Mar								2 May	16 May	
Least Sandpiper	11 Apr	3 Apr	29 Apr	4 May	5 May	14 May	13 May	3 May	3 May	10 Apr	27 Apr	2 May	
Pectoral Sandpiper	21 Mar	30 Mar	9 Apr	5 Apr	6 Apr			6 May	9 Apr	14 Apr	8 Apr	19 Apr	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	16 May	16 May	11 May	25 May	10 May	18 May	15 May	14 May	11 May	22 Apr	12 May	13 May	
American Woodcock	1 Mar	3 Mar	9 Mar	10 Mar	15 Mar	11 Mar	20 Mar	27 Feb	27 Feb	21 Feb	6 Mar	10 Mar	
Wilson's Snipe	10 Mar	21 Mar	20 Mar	22 Mar	22 Mar	23 Mar	31 Mar	28 Mar	27 Feb	14 Mar	19 Mar	23 Mar	
Spotted Sandpiper	12 Apr	19 Apr	14 Apr	20 Apr	7 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr	14 Apr	15 Apr	11 Apr	16 Apr	21 Apr	
Solitary Sandpiper	9 Apr	3 Apr	23 Apr	21 Apr	29 Apr	1 May	2 May	24 Apr	7 Apr	13 Apr	19 Apr	25 Apr	
Lesser Yellowlegs	25 Mar	30 Mar	10 Apr	5 Apr	9 Apr	8 May	8 May	19 Apr	8 Apr	3 Apr	12 Apr	15 Apr	
Greater Yellowlegs	24 Mar	21 Mar	28 Mar	19 Apr	25 Mar	1 Apr	19 Apr	13 Apr	6 Apr	10 Mar	1 Apr	5 Apr	
Caspian Tern	8 Apr	28 Mar	8 Apr	21 Apr	9 Apr	8 Apr	2 Apr	11 Apr	7 Apr	19 Apr	9 Apr	15 Apr	
Black Tern	28 Apr	7 May	3 May	5 May	30 Apr	4 May		6 May	4 May	19 May	5 May	7 May	
Common Tern	8 Apr	9 Apr	21 Apr	21 Apr	23 Apr	23 Apr	20 Apr		29 Apr	18 Apr	19 Apr	24 Apr	
American Bittern	13 Apr	13 Apr	11 Apr	20 Apr	11 Apr	7 Apr	2 Apr	7 Apr	26 Mar		8 Apr	13 Apr	
Green Heron	11 Apr	28 Mar	13 Apr	14 Apr	11 Apr	4 May	29 Apr	13 Apr	19 Mar	16 Apr	12 Apr	21 Apr	
Osprey	21 Mar	22 Mar	20 Mar	26 Mar	23 Mar	30 Mar	22 Mar	26 Mar	9 Mar	6 Mar	20 Mar	26 Mar	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	20 Mar	20 Mar	27 Mar	7 Mar	21 Mar	3 Apr	20 Mar		25 Mar		21 Mar	1 Apr	

Spring Arrival Dates 2021. Dates in bold font indicate record-early arrivals for the Region.												
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	NYS Avg	Avg 1987-2021
Gr. Crested Flycatcher	1 May	28 Apr	30 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr	3 May	5 May	28 Apr	28 Apr	23 Apr	29 Apr	30 Apr
Eastern Kingbird	24 Apr	26 Apr	24 Apr	29 Apr	28 Apr	4 May	8 May	24 Apr	24 Apr	24 Apr	27 Apr	27 Apr
Olive-sided Flycatcher	13 May	18 May	6 May	26 May	15 May	23 May	24 May	15 May	11 May	29 Apr	15 May	17 May
Eastern Wood-Pewee	8 May	11 May	8 May	8 May	1 May	15 May	16 May	2 May	6 May	2 May	7 May	9 May
Alder Flycatcher	16 May	14 May	16 May	3 May	12 May	9 May	13 May	12 May	13 May	20 May	12 May	16 May
Willow Flycatcher	11 May	9 May	14 May	12 May	6 May	13 May	19 May	15 May	11 May	3 May	11 May	14 May
Least Flycatcher	27 Apr	30 Apr	27 Apr	1 May	29 Apr	3 May	5 May	24 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr	29 Apr	30 Apr
Eastern Phoebe	18 Mar	15 Mar	11 Mar	11 Mar	10 Mar	23 Mar	25 Mar	11 Mar	10 Mar	10 Mar	14 Mar	21 Mar
Yellow-throated Vireo	1 May	28 Apr	29 Apr	2 May	24 Apr	2 May	7 May	28 Apr	21 Apr	12 Apr	27 Apr	2 May
Blue-headed Vireo	8 Apr	19 Apr	10 Apr	13 Apr	12 Apr	26 Apr	18 Apr	17 Apr	8 Apr	13 Apr	14 Apr	18 Apr
Warbling Vireo	27 Apr	27 Apr	27 Apr	24 Apr	27 Apr	2 May	28 Apr	28 Apr	24 Apr	22 Apr	26 Apr	29 Apr
Red-eyed Vireo	3 May	2 May	3 May	27 Apr	1 May	4 May	28 Apr	4 May	2 May	27 Apr	1 May	3 May
Purple Martin	10 Apr	4 Apr	5 Apr	24 Apr	22 Apr	17 Apr	8 May	19 Apr	3 Apr	27 Mar	13 Apr	16 Apr
Tree Swallow	10 Mar	11 Mar	11 Mar	12 Mar	21 Mar	21 Mar	12 Mar	11 Mar	26 Feb	12 Mar	11 Mar	19 Mar
N. Rough-winged Swallow	5 Apr	30 Mar	30 Mar	30 Mar	1 Apr	14 Apr	27 Mar	3 Apr	24 Mar	27 Mar	31 Mar	12 Apr
Bank Swallow	11 Apr	16 Apr	11 Apr	16 Apr	23 Apr	28 Apr	8 May	21 Apr	25 Apr	12 Apr	20 Apr	23 Apr
Cliff Swallow	18 Apr	16 Apr	31 Mar	25 Apr	21 Apr	1 May	29 Apr	26 Apr	18 Apr	5 Apr	18 Apr	25 Apr
Barn Swallow	30 Mar	24 Mar	1 Apr	27 Mar	1 Apr	17 Apr	2 Apr	7 Apr	26 Mar	15 Mar	30 Mar	8 Apr
House Wren	17 Apr	11 Apr	13 Apr	17 Apr	10 Apr	25 Apr	1 May	18 Apr	11 Apr	2 Apr	15 Apr	20 Apr
Marsh Wren	14 Apr	11 Apr	11 Apr	17 Apr	12 Apr	10 Apr	27 Apr	14 Apr	28 Mar	10 Apr	12 Apr	26 Apr
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	17 Apr	12 Apr	22 Apr	17 Apr	12 Apr	29 Apr	8 May	10 Apr	30 Mar	27 Mar	15 Apr	19 Apr
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	27 Mar	7 Apr	22 Mar	28 Mar	31 Mar	30 Mar	24 Mar	1 Apr	1 Apr		29 Mar	5 Apr
Eastern Bluebird		8 Mar		1 Mar	11 Mar	22 Mar			1 Mar	10 Mar	8 Mar	9 Mar
Veery	1 May	28 Apr	1 May	2 May	2 May	4 May	7 May	1 May	14 Apr	31 Mar	27 Apr	1 May
Swainson's Thrush	28 Apr	4 May	7 May	13 May	4 May	13 May	13 Apr	6 May	3 May	28 Apr	2 May	7 May
Hermit Thrush	20 Mar	17 Mar	1 Apr	4 Mar	16 Mar	1 Apr	6 Mar	30 Mar	2 Apr		21 Mar	6 Apr
Wood Thrush	29 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	1 May	27 Apr	23 Apr	15 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr
Gray Catbird	10 Apr	4 Apr	15 Apr	11 Mar	26 Apr	25 Apr	29 Apr	23 Apr	24 Mar	28 Apr	13 Apr	23 Apr
Brown Thrasher	2 Apr	6 Apr	1 Apr	27 Mar	6 Apr	9 Apr	2 Apr	8 Apr	6 Apr	15 Mar	2 Apr	13 Apr
Eastern Towhee	21 Mar	28 Mar	17 Mar	1 Apr	3 Apr	22 Mar	14 Apr	4 Apr	29 Mar		29 Mar	7 Apr
Chipping Sparrow	11 Mar	24 Mar	13 Mar	24 Mar	28 Mar	1 Apr	24 Mar	28 Mar	23 Mar		23 Mar	3 Apr

Spring Arrival Dates 2021. Dates in bold font indicate record-early arrivals for the Region.												
Species	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7	Region 8	Region 9	Region 10	NYS Avg	Avg 1987-2021
Vesper Sparrow	23 Mar	3 Apr	28 Mar	7 Apr	24 Mar	31 Mar	8 Apr	8 Apr	4 Apr	21 Mar	31 Mar	9 Apr
Savannah Sparrow	14 Mar	23 Mar	25 Mar	28 Mar	28 Mar	3 Apr	8 Apr	3 Apr	27 Mar	29 Mar	28 Mar	5 Apr
Lincoln's Sparrow	19 Mar	1 May	2 May	13 May	28 Apr	6 May	9 May	2 May	3 May	1 May	29 Apr	3 May
White-crowned Sparrow		24 Apr	18 Apr	5 Mar	14 Apr	22 Apr	28 Apr	18 Apr	20 Apr	23 Apr	15 Apr	23 Apr
Bobolink	29 Apr	2 May	25 Apr	3 May	28 Apr	1 May	7 May	1 May	27 Apr	30 Apr	30 Apr	1 May
Baltimore Oriole	27 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr	24 Apr	18 Apr	30 Apr	7 May	28 Apr	24 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr
Ovenbird	28 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr	3 May	28 Apr	20 Apr	19 Apr	26 Apr	28 Apr
Northern Waterthrush	24 Apr	25 Apr	19 Apr	24 Apr	24 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	18 Apr	18 Apr	23 Apr	25 Apr
Black-and-white Warbler	27 Apr	27 Apr	25 Apr	20 Apr	27 Apr	29 Apr	1 May	23 Apr	12 Apr	11 Apr	23 Apr	24 Apr
Tennessee Warbler	2 May	6 May	29 Apr	7 May	5 May	2 May	16 May	8 May	27 Apr	27 Apr	3 May	8 May
Nashville Warbler	27 Apr	27 Apr	27 Apr	25 Apr	30 Apr	2 May	29 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr
Mourning Warbler	3 May	15 May	6 May	5 May	10 May	16 May	20 May	15 May	7 May	18 Apr	8 May	13 May
Common Yellowthroat	28 Apr	29 Apr	23 Apr	28 Apr	18 Apr	30 Apr	24 Apr	27 Apr	21 Apr	14 Apr	24 Apr	28 Apr
American Redstart	28 Apr	2 May	28 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr	3 May	6 May	28 Apr	26 Apr	19 Apr	28 Apr	1 May
Cape May Warbler	28 Apr	28 Apr	2 May	3 May	1 May	12 May	9 May	2 May	28 Apr	27 Apr	2 May	6 May
Northern Parula	24 Apr	18 Apr	28 Apr	24 Apr	29 Apr	4 May	5 May	28 Apr	26 Apr	31 Mar	24 Apr	1 May
Magnolia Warbler	1 May	2 May	2 May	2 May	2 May	2 May	8 May	2 May	30 Apr	27 Apr	1 May	3 May
Bay-breasted Warbler	5 May	5 May	5 May	16 May	7 May	4 May	7 May	9 May	5 May	4 May	6 May	9 May
Blackburnian Warbler	28 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr	4 May	2 May	28 Apr	25 Apr	28 Apr	29 Apr	2 May
Yellow Warbler	27 Apr	23 Apr	20 Apr	23 Apr	21 Apr	25 Apr	2 May	27 Apr	14 Apr	17 Apr	22 Apr	25 Apr
Chestnut-sided Warbler	28 Apr	29 Apr	1 May	28 Apr	28 Apr	2 May	8 May	2 May	28 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr	2 May
Blackpoll Warbler	9 May	15 May	8 May	4 May	15 May	13 May	16 May	8 May	2 May	28 Apr	8 May	11 May
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	29 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	30 Apr	2 May	2 May	4 May	12 May	19 Apr	24 Apr	29 Apr	30 Apr
Palm Warbler	16 Mar	10 Apr	8 Apr	31 Mar	15 Apr	9 Apr	9 Apr	4 Apr	28 Mar	26 Mar	3 Apr	15 Apr
Pine Warbler	25 Mar	28 Mar	27 Mar	7 Mar	30 Mar	31 Mar	1 Apr	30 Mar	23 Mar	11 Mar	24 Mar	7 Apr
Black-thr. Green Warbler	24 Apr	24 Apr	24 Apr	25 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	27 Apr	20 Apr	19 Apr	24 Apr	25 Apr
Canada Warbler	12 May	16 May	3 May	3 May	2 May	12 May	16 May	10 May	5 May	29 Apr	7 May	9 May
Wilson's Warbler	8 May	14 May	2 May	7 May	14 May	4 May	17 May	7 May	2 May	14 Apr	5 May	10 May
Scarlet Tanager	28 Apr	3 May	28 Apr	5 May	1 May	8 May	8 May	4 May	28 Apr	29 Apr	2 May	3 May
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	24 Apr	29 Apr	20 Apr	24 Apr	28 Apr	28 Apr	1 May	24 Apr	22 Apr	16 Apr	24 Apr	27 Apr
Indigo Bunting	24 Apr	5 May	28 Apr	21 Apr	29 Apr	8 May	15 May	5 May	19 Apr	13 Apr	28 Apr	3 May
Overall Average	14 Apr	15 Apr	15 Apr	16 Apr	17 Apr	22 Apr	24 Apr	19 Apr	12 Apr	12 Apr	17 Apr	21 Apr

REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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March 2021 was dry and much warmer than average. The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 40.3° F, 6.3° above normal, with just 1.92" of precipitation, 0.95" below average. April started out warm for the first half and turned cold for the second half of the month. The mean temperature was 48.3°, 2.3° above average. Precipitation was 2.77", 0.24" below average with rain falling on more than half the days. The dry spell continued into May with a total of 1.63" of precipitation, 1.74" below normal. The average temperature was 57.2°, 0.7° below normal.

Waterfowl made a nice showing in March and April with several high counts coming from Iroquois NWR. Snow Geese were seen in several parts of the Region with a seasonal high count of 85 from Chautauqua County and the last being seen on 7 April. There were two records of Ross's Goose in early March, which has become a near-annual spring occurrence. There were three reports of Greater White-fronted Geese in the spring and no Brant reported. Cackling Geese were seen in several locations including a seasonal high count of 25 on 21 March. Celeste Morien had a nice count of 546 Tundra Swans at Iroquois NWR, the highest count for the season. An impressive 1,116 Northern Pintails were also counted at Iroquois NWR and large numbers were seen there from Cayuga Pool for an extended period in late March. A long-staying Eurasian Wigeon provided ample opportunity to birders during its stay at Tifft Nature Preserve from 11 March to 26 April. An additional individual was also reported from Iroquois NWR on 18 March. A Harlequin Duck was only reported once this season from its usual location at Niagara Falls SP. All three expected scoters were reported with both Surf and White-winged being reported from inland locations, while a report of a Black Scoter was unusual for late May. A seasonal high count of 650 Ruddy Ducks was reported from Chautauqua Lake.

A count of 92 Wild Turkey in Forestville was a seasonal high and very large tally for the Region. Golden Hill SP produced the highest Horned Grebe and Red-necked Grebe counts of the season with 22 and 175, respectively. Carol Hardenburg hosted yet another rare dove in her yard; this time a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** from 15-22 March, after hosting a White-winged Dove in December 2020. The arrival of Chimney Swifts and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds was first reported on 27 April.

There were several shorebird highlights this spring, in part thanks to the temporary lowering of water levels at some Iroquois NWR pools which attracted good numbers of shorebirds, and subsequently, birders. This included a **Black-necked Stilt** found by Terry Bohling at Iroquois NWR on 30 May. This represents the fourth Regional record, all of which occurred in the past five years. Additionally, the first spring record of a **Ruff** since 2013 was found by Celeste Morien at the Iroquois NWR pools on 11-12 May, as well as a single Long-billed Dowitcher from 9-12 May. American Avocets showed up at Dunkirk Harbor on 29 April with a passing rain event. Buffalo Harbor has proven to be a reliable shorebird location, producing up to 38 Whimbrel and the Region's only Red Knot of the season, both on 25 May, as well as overwintering Purple Sandpipers that continued until 5 April. It was an exceptional year for Wilson's Phalarope within the Region, including reports from three counties. A long-staying, amorous pair that was repeatedly observed mating in Amherst had locals hopeful they would nest in a local retention pond, but after a one-week stay, they moved on.

On the evening of 30 May while at Iroquois NWR for the Black-necked Stilt, Peter Yoerg identified a **King Rail** at Kumpf Marsh. A few birders had it the next day as well, and then after it was mentioned on a Regional text alert on 1 June, many birders chased after it. Sandhill Cranes put on a nice showing throughout the Region including a nice count of 11 in Oakfield.

Winter gulls remained well into spring with Iceland Gull last reported on 25 May, Lesser Black-backed Gull into the end of May, and Glaucous Gull reported as late as 17 April. A high count of five Little Gulls was made on 11 March in Lewiston, the most reliable location for this species in the Region and probably the state.

Golden Hill SP produced nice counts of 198 Red-throated and 82 Common Loons, both on 25 April and representing high counts for the season. The only report of American White Pelican was from Iroquois NWR on 18 April. Beaver Island SP produced two rare waders this spring. A Little Blue Heron was first found on the Canadian side of the Niagara River on 15 April late in the day and stuck overnight so that New Yorkers could catch glimpses of it from the US side throughout the day on the 16th. Bruce Hoover later found a Snowy Egret at the park on 15 May. Another surprise was a Cattle Egret photographed at a local vineyard in Lockport on 29 April. Black Vultures were reported from Sheridan and Bethany, in addition to their usual location in Lewiston. Two Golden Eagles were reported this spring, including one that was scavenging in a field and eventually escorted from the area by American Crows. Joel Strong photographed a juvenile "**Krider's**" Red-tailed Hawk at Tonawanda WMA on 1 April. This population of Red-tailed Hawk is from the Great Plains Region of the US and rarely ventures this far east into NY.

There were few reports of Snowy Owls in the spring, all single birds and no Long-eared Owls reported. Conewango Swamp WMA produced some nice counts of up to eight Short-eared Owls as well as a handful of other locations throughout the Region. Only two Northern Saw-whet Owls were reported this

spring. Red-headed Woodpeckers arrived on 21 April and were well-represented throughout the Region. Both Amherst and Buffalo produced healthy counts of five Peregrine Falcons, a species that is on the rise in the Region.

Passerine migration mostly followed the weather as movement seemed a little ahead of schedule during the warm start to April, then slowed in the colder second half, and picked up to regular schedule in May with a noted decline in activity after the third week.

Six Olive-sided Flycatcher reports made for a decent showing. Steven Pitt found a White-eyed Vireo at Tifft Nature Preserve on 28 April and several birders reported two there a few days later. Another White-eyed Vireo was found in Olean. A Blue-headed Vireo in Olean on 8 April was slightly early, but not surprising in a warm period and warming globe. Up to four Fish Crows continued at the winter roost in Buffalo in March. A flyby Fish Crow was identified along Lake Ontario shoreline in Olcott in May while two in Olean in May made for a good sighting in the same location as the Region's first record back in 2012. A record count of Common Ravens on the BOS May Count is indicative of their recent spread through the northern half of the Region. A Sedge Wren was found at Conewango Swamp WMA which is perhaps the most regular location for this species known for its irregular habits. A record count for Carolina Wrens on the BOS May Count is evidence they are on the upswing of a cycle or just flat out increasing; mild winters always help this species as well.

Evening Grosbeaks were reported in double digits at a few locations, and there was an increase in reports in May as small groups or single birds passed through. A few groups of 40 to 50 Common Redpolls were reported in March, although like the grosbeak, this species was present but not widespread. Birders scrutinized the redpoll flocks that resulted in three reports of individual Hoary Redpolls in March. Birders hoping for a strong return flight of crossbills following the irruption last fall were disappointed. Red Crossbills were found in three scattered locations and a lone White-winged Crossbill visited at a feeder in Newfane in March. The maximum count for Pine Siskin reached 60 in May but there were only several reports in double digits throughout the season.

Clay-colored Sparrows were reported from six locations including a maximum of seven in late May at Krull County Park, which is the best-known breeding location. Fox Sparrows made a good showing in migration with up to 11 in Wellsville in late March. Nathan Johnson photographed a record early Lincoln's Sparrow on 19 March at Stiglmeier Park; this is only the second March report and very early for a species with first arrivals in late April. Gale VerHague photographed a **Harris's Sparrow** on 19 May at Point Gratiot and got the word out for other birders to observe this one-day wonder. Gale also found two Yellow-breasted Chats at Canadaway Creek WMA, marking the first Regional report of this species since 2018. On the morning of 23 April, Paul McQuillen was puzzled by a bird in his Hamburg yard. After sending a photo to a local birding social media site, he welcomed many to come see the male Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Orchard Orioles have been on the increase in recent years and the record count on the BOS May Count provides good evidence of this trend.

The highlight of the spring season was a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** found by John Barton on 20 April at Amherst SP. The chase was then on! The warbler stuck around until 24 April but was not always an easy find in the woods and it was observed during a late season snowfall on one of the days. Over 150 eBird entries were made for this western rarity over the five days. This is the fourth Regional record and first since 2004. On 28 April at Tiff Nature Preserve, Steven Pitt had a brief sighting and took two quick photos in the understory of the Region's first Kentucky Warbler since 2013. A Worm-eating Warbler found by Vicki Rothman at Niagara Falls SP on 5 May drew many subsequent observers that day. An Eastern Palm Warbler was found by Joel Farwell at Four Mile Creek SP in late April. A Western Palm Warbler found and photographed by Matt Nusstein during a field trip at Evangola SP was stunning for the early date of 16 March! Like the very early Lincoln's Sparrow it is possible that these birds did not winter as far south as typical in this mild winter and made their way north earlier. There were five Golden-winged Warbler reports in May. Prothonotary Warbler was found at Tonawanda WMA and Iroquois NWR in traditional breeding locations, while one at Tiff Nature Preserve on 24 May was either late as a migrant or possibly a male prospecting in suitable habitat.

The 86th BOS April Count was held on 11 April on a mild and cloudy day and compiled by Joel Strong. There was a species count of 143 with 81,016 birds recorded, well below average. Highest counts in the period since 1966 were tallied for Trumpeter Swan (8), Virginia Rail (13), Black Vulture (7), Red-bellied Woodpecker (362), Merlin (11), Brown Thrasher (66), Northern Mockingbird (68), and Northern Cardinal (1,369). The lowest counts in the same period included Lesser Scaup (30), Long-tailed Duck (25), Ring-necked Pheasant (2), American Coot (18), and Northern Harrier (15).

The BOS May Count was held on 16 May and compiled by Robert Deleon. A total of 206 species was tallied, and 68,146 birds (below average) were recorded. Record high counts since 1965 included Mute Swan (43, most in Ontario), Trumpeter Swan (6), Hooded Merganser (53), Great Egret (232), Black Vulture (6), Cooper's Hawk (29), Virginia Rail (14), Wilson's Phalarope (5), Eastern Screech-Owl (12), Fish Crow (9), Common Raven (64), Tufted Titmouse (173), Red-breasted Nuthatch (122), Carolina Wren (74), Pine Warbler (33), Clay-colored Sparrow (9), and Orchard Oriole (40). Lowest counts over the same period included Ring-necked Pheasant (2) and Purple Finch (47).

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACNC – Audubon Community Nature Center, Jamestown CHAU; **AISP** – Allegany SP, CATT; **AmSP** – Amherst SP, ERIE; **BeSP** – Beaver I SP, ERIE; **BMAC** – Beaver Meadow Audubon Center, WYOM; **BOSAC** – Buffalo Ornithological Society April Count – 11 Apr; **BOSMC** – Buffalo Ornithological Society May Count – 16 May; **BufH** – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; **BuSP** – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; **BWWTP** – Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, GENE; **ChauL** – Chautauqua L, CHAU; **CSWMA** – Conewango Swamp WMA, CATT; **DH** – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; **DHSP** – Devil’s Hole SP, NIAG; **EvSP** – Evangola SP, ERIE; **FLC** – Forest Lawn Cemetery, Buffalo, ERIE; **FMCSP** – Four Mile Creek SP, NIAG; **FNSP** – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; **GHSP** – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; **Hamburg HW** – Hamburg Hawk Watch, ERIE; **INWR** – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; **JDSP** – Joseph Davis SP, NIAG; **JWWMA** – John White WMA, GENE; **Krull CP** – Krull CP, NIAG; **LBSP** – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; **LESP** – Lake Erie SP, CHAU; **NF** – Niagara Falls, NIAG; **NFSP** – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; **NR** – Niagara R; **OOWMA** – Oak Orchard WMA, GENE/ORLE; **PB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **PG** – Pt Gratiot, CHAU; **RWNP** – Reinstein Woods NP, ERIE; **SPWS** – Sinking Ponds Wildlife Sanctuary, ERIE; **TBNP** – Times Beach NP, Buffalo, ERIE; **Tift NP** – Tift Nature Pres, ERIE; **TRWMA** – Tillman Road WMA, ERIE; **TWMA** – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; **WFWMA** – Watts Flats WMA, CHAU; **WoBSP** – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; **WTSP** – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 43 Fredonia CHAU 3 Mar; 43 TRWMA 9 Mar; max 85 Pomfret CHAU 10 Mar; last Somerset NIAG 7 Apr.
Ross’s Goose: Olean CATT 2, 3 Mar (BG); CSWMA 4, 7 Mar (BR, PMi); nearly annual in spring.
Greater White-fronted Goose: Yates ORLE 10 Mar; max 5 INWR 12 Mar (TJM); 2 Porter NIAG 14 Mar.
Brant: no reports.
Cackling Goose: 11 Yates ORLE 10 Mar (JSt); 4 BuSP 14 Mar; 15 Somerset NIAG 16

Mar (WD); max 25 Oakfield GENE 21 Mar (PY).

Mute Swan: 2 Tonawanda ERIE 6 Mar; 4 Olcott NIAG 16 Mar; 5 N Collins ERIE 9, 27 Apr, 1 May; 4 Tift NP 10 Apr, 1, 31 May; max 9, 10 PB 24 Apr, 27 May; 7 GHSP 25 Apr; 1, 1 BeSP 4, 24 May.

Trumpeter Swan: 5, 5, 4 INWR 14 Mar, 27 Apr, 13 May, regular at this location in recent years.

Tundra Swan: 295 Long Pt SP CHAU 3 Mar; 198 BuSP 9 Mar; 178 Hamburg HW 10 Mar; max 546 INWR 15 Mar (CM); last NF BOSMC.

Wood Duck: max 80, 80 Cuba ALLE 22 Mar, 6 Apr.

Blue-winged Teal: arr CSWMA 21 Mar; max 18 INWR 14 Apr.

Northern Shoveler: max 60, 73 INWR 21 Mar, 23 Apr.

Gadwall: max 60, 72 INWR 16 Mar, 6 Apr; 43 Dayton CATT 27 Mar.

Eurasian Wigeon: Tiftt NP 11 Mar – 26 Apr (TD, mob); INWR 18 Mar (SS); annual in spring.

American Wigeon: max 299, 354 INWR 23 Mar, 6 Apr; 200 OOWMA 30 Mar.

American Black Duck: 36 CSWMA 6 Mar; max 131, 66 OOWMA 22, 30 Mar.

Northern Pintail: msx 625, 974, 1116 INWR 13, 23 Mar, 6 Apr (CM), impressive numbers at Cayuga Pool.

Green-winged Teal: max 224 OOWMA 30 Mar; 180, 203 INWR 23 Mar, 6 Apr.

Canvasback: 150 DH 2 Mar; max 760 BeSP 2 Mar; last BeSP 16 Apr.

Redhead: 250, 250 Celoron ChauL 2, 15 Mar; 250 DH 2 Mar; max 700 BeSP 6 Mar; 32, 5 INWR 17 Apr, 31 May.

Ring-necked Duck: 200 WFWMA 22 Mar; 357 TWMA 25 Mar; max 375 Chautauqua ChauL 17 Apr.

Greater Scaup: 300 DH 2 Mar; max 1500 BufH 7 Mar; last DH 28 May.

Lesser Scaup: 90 BufH 25 Mar; 66 BWWT 18 Apr; max 100 Chautauqua ChauL 24 Apr; last BWWT 28 May.

Harlequin Duck: NFSP 26 Apr (TK), only report.

Surf Scoter: 3 BufH 25 Mar; 2 DH 30 Mar, 6 Apr; GHSP 14 Apr; 2 SPWS 24 Apr (JBa); max 9 BuSP 2 May (AH); Amherst ERIE 7 May (JSa); 3 Dayton CATT 11 May (JK).

White-winged Scoter: max 100 FNFP 9 Mar; 3 Cuba ALLE 26 Apr (JRo); 2 Dayton CATT 30 Apr; 2 AISP 8 May (KB); 2 Lewiston Res NIAG 17 May; 5 BufH 26 May (KR).

Black Scoter: BufH 26 May (KR), late; with White-winged Scoters.

Long-tailed Duck: max 277 GHSP 25 Apr.

Bufflehead: max 400 Jamestown ChauL 7 Apr; 275 BWWT 24 Apr.

Common Goldeneye: max 300 Buffalo NR 7 Mar; 160 Celoron ChauL 11 Mar; max 300 BufH 20 Mar; last DH 26 May.

Hooded Merganser: max 38 Bird Swamp CATT 14 Mar.

Common Merganser: max 229 BeSP 3 Apr.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 500 DH 28 Mar; 325 LBSP 27 Apr.

Ruddy Duck: 78, 368, 250 BWWT 25 Mar, 17 Apr, 1 May; 12, 5 Dayton CATT 27 Mar, 31 May; max 650 N Harmony ChauL 17 Apr.

Wild Turkey: max 92 Forestville CHAU 6 Mar (GV).

Pied-billed Grebe: max 14 TWMA 12 Apr.

Horned Grebe: 15 Dayton CATT 27 Mar; max 22 GHSP, 20 Yates ORLE 14 Apr; last INWR 12 May.

Red-necked Grebe: 54, 80, 74 Somerset NIAG 20, 27 Mar, 14 Apr; max 175 GHSP 27 Mar; BeSP 17 Apr; N Harmony ChauL 24 Apr; BWWT 1 May; last Gerry CHAU 7 May (WS).

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: Portland CHAU 15-22 Mar (CH, mob), rare, first report since 2015.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Fredonia CHAU 9 May.

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Shelby ORLE, Buffalo ERIE, Gerry CHAU 15 May.

Common Nighthawk: arr 2 BOSMC; 9 TRWMA 25 May; max 34 INWR 30 May (AGu).

Eastern Whip-poor-will: arr Newfane NIAG 1 May; BeSP 2 May; Ellicott Creek CP ERIE 6 May; GHSP 17 May.

Chimney Swift: arr 3 Attica WYOM, Buffalo ERIE 27 Apr.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Forestville CHAU 27 Apr.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

KING RAIL: INWR 30 May thru (PY, WD! CM!), very rare; first Reg record since 2010.

Virginia Rail: arr ACNC, Orchard P ERIE, BuSP, Tiftt NP 8 Apr.

Sora: arr BWWT 17 Apr.

Common Gallinule: arr TWMA 6 Apr.

American Coot: max 60 TWMA 16 Apr.

Sandhill Crane: 3, 4 CSWMA 6 Mar, 8 May; max 11 Oakfield GENE 21 Mar; 8 WFWMA 25 Mar; 4 ACNC 2 Apr; 7, 6 INWR 17 Apr, 5 May; Dayton CATT 30 May (PMi).

BLACK-NECKED STILT: INWR 30-31 May (TB, mob), 4th Reg record, all in last five years.

American Avocet: 1, 2 DH 29 Apr (GV, BR), reports increasing in spring.

Black-bellied Plover: arr CSWMA, BufH 6 May; 1, 3 INWR 15, 31 May; Somerset NIAG 23 May; BWWT 28 May.

Semipalmated Plover: arr 4, max 32 INWR 10, 19 May.

Killdeer: max 50 Ripley HW CHAU 22 Mar.

Upland Sandpiper: 1-2 TRWMA 12 May thru; regular breeding location.
Whimbrel: arr 5 BeSP 13 May; 4, max 38 BufH 22, 25 May (KR).
Ruddy Turnstone: arr 1, max 12 BufH 14 May, 22 May; 2-3 INWR 16 May; 2 BWWT 28 May.
Red Knot: BufH 25 May (KR, AGa), only report.
RUFF: INWR 11, 12 May (CM, mob), first spring report since 2013.
Sanderling: arr 2, max 7 BufH 22, 25 May.
Dunlin: arr 3 INWR 10 Apr; max 32 BufH 22 May.
Purple Sandpiper: 2, 2, 1 BufH 11, 25 Mar, 5 Apr, continued from winter.
Least Sandpiper: arr 2 INWR 11 Apr (DG), record early; 2 DH 4 May; max 62 Alexander GENE 17 May.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr CSWMA 29 May (JM), only report.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr CSWMA 21 Mar; max 33 INWR 12 May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 20 BOSMC; 14 Dayton CATT 29 May; 18 INWR 31 May.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 1, 11 INWR 16, 18 May; 8 Dayton CATT 29 May; CSWMA 29 May.
Long-billed Dowitcher: INWR 9-12 May (MR, WD, BP), increased spring reports last two years.
American Woodcock: arr Forestville CHAU 1 Mar.
Wilson's Snipe: arr CSWMA 10 Mar; max 45 Hartland NIAG 12 Apr.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr West Seneca ERIE 12 Apr.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr Porter NIAG 9 Apr; max 17 INWR 12 May (PY).
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 2 INWR 25 Mar; 21 Hartland NIAG 28 Apr; 47 CSWMA 4 May; max 71 INWR 15 May.
Willet: no reports.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr INWR 24 Mar; 23 INWR 6 Apr; 23 BWWT 1 May; max 75 INWR 5 May (VR).
Wilson's Phalarope: arr 1, 1, 1 INWR 10, 13, 28 May; 3 Somerset NIAG 13-18 May (JSt); Hartland NIAG 15, 16 May; CSWMA 16 May; Forestville CHAU 16 May; 2 Amherst ERIE 21-27 May (JSa, mob), pair observed mating but did not stick around; excellent showing.
Red-necked Phalarope: 3, 1 BWWT 24, 29 May (DB, PMi), only reports.
Black-legged Kittiwake: juv Barcelona Harbor CHAU 1 Mar (GV), rare for date.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 600 Buffalo NR 31 Mar.
Little Gull: max 5 Lewiston NR 11 Mar.
Iceland Gull: 2 Celoron ChauL 12 Mar (TS); 2 WoBSP 3 Apr; reported from 5 other locs; last Olcott NIAG 25 May.
"THAYER'S" ICELAND GULL: imm Krull CP NIAG 25 Apr (JSt ph!); ad Olcott NIAG 29 Apr (JSt ph!); nicely documented by photos.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 3 NFSP 13 Mar; Dayton CATT 21 Mar; Collins ERIE 27 Mar; N Collins ERIE 28 Mar; Olcott NIAG 11 May; WoBSP 18 May; PB 28 May (AGu, CW).
Glaucous Gull: BufH 3 Mar; 2 NPP 14 Mar; Collins ERIE 27 Mar; max 2, 5, 1 WoBSP 30 Mar, 3, 17 Apr.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 14 BufH 2 Mar.
Caspian Tern: arr Barcelona Harbor CHAU 8 Apr; 114 Wilson NIAG 7 May; max 204 BuH 24 May.
Black Tern: arr 3 INWR 28 Apr; BMAC 1 May (SA, unusual location; max 21 TWMA 9 May; BWWT 29 May.
Common Tern: arr 3 Buffalo NR 8 Apr; 158 Olcott NIAG 11 May; max 250 BufH 29 May.
Forster's Tern: Silver Creek CHAU 4 May (GV); 2 Allegheny Res CATT 6 May (JK); only reports.

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: 19 Krull CP NIAG 20 Mar; Dayton CATT 23 Apr (BR, JK); max 198 GHSP 25 Apr (WD); last 7 GHSP 18 May.
Common Loon: arr Somerset NIAG, Franklinville CATT, 2 Dayton CATT 27 Mar; max 82 GHSP 25 Apr.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 1000 Grand I NR 27 May.
American White Pelican: INWR 18 Apr (RT, NL); only report for this species after multiple reports in recent springs.
American Bittern: arr INWR 13 Apr.
Least Bittern: arr 1, max 3 Tift NP 28 Apr, 21 May; West Seneca ERIE 8 May; 2 TWMA 9 May.
Great Blue Heron: max 172, 171 Motor I NR ERIE 23 Mar, 3 Apr.
Great Egret: arr BeSP 21 Mar; max 96 INWR 19 May.
Snowy Egret: BeSP 15 May (BH), not found after initial sighting.

Little Blue Heron: BeSP 16 Apr; bird on Canadian side of NR, but visible at distance with scopes from US side.

Cattle Egret: Lockport NIAG 29 Apr (DR), surprise find in a vineyard.

Green Heron: arr 2 BOSAC.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr 3 Motor I NR ERIE 27 Mar.

Black Vulture: Sheridan CHAU 22 Mar (GV); Bethany GENE 8 Apr (DB); 2, 2, 1 Lewiston NIAG 10, 23, 30 May, regular location.

Turkey Vulture: max 801, 878 Hamburg HW 22 Mar, 8 Apr.

Osprey: arr CSWMA 21 Mar.

Golden Eagle: OOWMA 7 Apr (CM); Somerset NIAG 20 Apr (JSt), scavenging until chased off by crows.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 32 Hamburg HW 23 Apr.

Northern Goshawk: no reports.

Bald Eagle: 11 Ripley HW 22 Mar; max 12 Hamburg HW 6 May.

Red-shouldered Hawk: arr 2, max 40 Hamburg HW 8, 17 Mar.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr 4 Orchard Park ERIE 7 Apr; max 293, 319 Hamburg HW 24 Apr, 1 May.

Red-tailed Hawk: TWMA 1 Apr (JSt ph!), "Kriider's" form, rarely documented in Reg.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 7 Hamburg HW 20 Mar; last CSWMA, 2 Hamburg HW 1 May.

Snowy Owl: BufH 2, 13, 20 Mar; Jamestown Airport CHAU 5-10 Mar (RS; Tift NP 10 Mar; only locations with reports.

Long-eared Owl: no reports.

Short-eared Owl: max 8, 5 Conewango CATT 7 Mar, 12 Apr (PMi, JK); 2 INWR 16 Mar; 5 Shelby ORLE 22 Mar; Tift NP 22 Mar; Freedom CATT 25 Mar; Jamestown Airport CHAU 14 Apr.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Kiantone CHAU 3 Mar (JBe, JRa); Tift NP 7 Mar (CA, MM); only reports.

Red-headed Woodpecker: arr ACNC 21 Apr; Shelby ORLE 24 Apr; 2, 4 PG 29 Apr, 8 May; Fredonia CHAU 30 Apr; 3 Tift NP 14 May; 4 Como Lake CP ERIE 18 May.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: AmSP 2 Mar; Bethany GENE 6 Mar; reported from nine other locations in March, with increased winter reports cannot determine first arrival.

Merlin: max 3, 3 Hamburg HW 21, 27 Mar.

Peregrine Falcon: max 5 Amherst ERIE 22 May; max 5 Buffalo ERIE 25 May.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr 3 RWNP, INWR, BMAC 1 May.

Eastern Kingbird: arr INWR 24 Apr.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Jamestown CHU 13 May; five other reports.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: arr Irving ERIE, Tift NP 8 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr AmSP, PG 19 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr Canadaway Creek WMA CHAU 16 May.

Alder Flycatcher: arr 2 BOSMC.

Willow Flycatcher: arr Forestville CHAU 11 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr Jamestown CHAU 27 Apr.

Eastern Phoebe: arr RWNP, Amherst ERIE 18 Mar.

Northern Shrike: reported from six locs in Mar; last Krull CP NIAG 20 Mar.

White-eyed Vireo: arr 1-2 Tift NP 28 Apr – 1 May (SP, mob), two birds reported 1 May; Olean CATT 10 May (BC).

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr RWNP, INWR 1 May.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr Olean CATT 8 Apr (BG), early; Cassadaga CHAU 10 Apr.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr AmSP, FLC, Tift NP 15 May.

Warbling Vireo: arr Cherry Creek CHAU 27 Apr.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr FLC, AISP 3 May.

Blue Jay: max 1023 GHSP 2 May.

Fish Crow: 4, 3 Buffalo ERIE 8, 11 Mar, most sightings at or near crow roost; 2 Olean CATT 2-10 May (JM), in an area with historic sightings; Olcott NIAG 22 May (JSt).

Common Raven: 64 BOSMC, record high for count.

Horned Lark: max 35 Stockton CHAU 2 Mar.

Purple Martin: arr 12 BeSP, 2 TWMA 10 Apr.

Tree Swallow: arr 2 INWR 10 Mar; max 400, 750 BWWTP 30 Apr, 1 May.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: arr Buffalo ERIE, Tift NP 5 Apr.

Bank Swallow: arr BOSAC.

Cliff Swallow: arr Tift NP 18 Apr.

Barn Swallow: arr Tift NP 30 Mar; max 250, 400 BWWTP 30 Apr, 1 May.

House Wren: arr Amherst ERIE 17 Apr.

Winter Wren: arr INWR 12 Mar.

Sedge Wren: 1, 1 CSWMA 10, 29 (BR, JM), regular at this location in recent years.

Marsh Wren: arr 2 TWMA 14 Apr.
Carolina Wren: 74 BOSMC, record high count.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr Chautauqua CHAU 17 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr GHSP 27 Mar.
Veery: arr Orangeville WYOM 1 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr INWR, BufH 15 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr RWNP 28 Apr (MG); East Amherst ERIE 30 Apr (KLL ph!); slightly early.
Hermit Thrush: DLSP 13 Mar; arr Sturgeon Pt ERIE 20 Mar; Jamestown CHAU 28 Mar.
Wood Thrush: arr Buffalo ERIE, Tift NP, INWR 29 Apr.
Gray Catbird: 1, 1 Tift NP 3, 29 Mar; S Buffalo ERIE 12 Mar; arr Buffalo ERIE 10 Apr.
Brown Thrasher: arr S Buffalo ERIE 2 Apr.
American Pipit: arr Olean CATT 3 Mar (BC); 56 Pomfret CHAU 22 Mar; max 69 Shelby ORLE 3 May; last Amherst ERIE 17 May.
Evening Grosbeak: 15 Gerry CHAU 7 Mar; 10, 12, 8 Andover ALLE 14 Mar, 10 Apr, 9 May; max 24 Machias CATT 26 Mar; 1, 7 BMAC 27 Apr, 2 May; 2 Holland ERIE 30 Apr; 16 Bethany GENE 2 May; 6 LBSP 3 May; 8 Wellsville ALLE 6 May; 5 Wethersfield WYOM 28 May; plus additional reports of 1-2 in May.
Purple Finch: max 11 Jamestown CHAU 28 Apr.
Common Redpoll: max 50 Holland ERIE 4 Mar; 45 OOWMA 6 Mar; 52 Yates ORLE 11 Mar; 41 Ashford CATT 16 Mar; 40 Cambria NIAG 18 Mar; 40 N Tonawanda NIAG 20 Mar; last Newfane NIAG 3 May (JSt).
Hoary Redpoll: Newfane NIAG 7, 14 Mar (JSt); Lockport NIAG 11 Mar (PMi); Wilson NIAG 13 Mar (WD); all among Commons.
Red Crossbill: 15 BMAC 17, 24 Apr (TK); Krull CP NIAG 19 Apr (WD, BP); 8 Canadaway Creek WMA CHAU 30 May (BC); expected more following fall irruption.
White-winged Crossbill: Newfane NIAG 28, 30 Mar (JSt), at feeder; only report.
Pine Siskin: 23 Jamestown CHAU 28 Mar; 16 Wilson NIAG 27 Apr; 18 Newfane NIAG 28 Apr; 19, 27 Busti CHAU 29 Apr, 3 May; 35 Fredonia CHAU 11 May; max 60 Orchard P ERIE 14 May.
American Goldfinch: max 158 Shelby ORLE 14 Mar.
Lapland Longspur: last 3 Forestville CHAU 24 Mar.

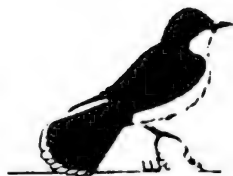
Snow Bunting: max 100 Sheldon WYOM 13 Mar; last BufH 27 Mar.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: arr Tift NP 21 Mar.
American Tree Sparrow: last 4 Orchard P ERIE 25 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: arr Attica WYOM 11 Mar.
Clay-colored Sparrow: arr BuSP 2 May; Buffalo ERIE 3 May; JWWMA 8 May; max 2, 7 Krull CP 8, 29 May, regular breeding loc; 2 LBSP 12 May; 2 Porter NIAG 19 May.
Field Sparrow: arr Portland CHAU 5 Mar.
Vesper Sparrow: arr Tift NP 23 Mar; 4 BeSP 14 Apr (DS); max 7 Sheridan CHAU 14 Apr (GV); 6 Shelby ORLE 13 May (VR).
Savannah Sparrow: Dunkirk Airport CHAU 14 Mar; arr Sheridan CHAU 20 Mar.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Orchard P ERIE 28 Apr; max 4 JWWMA 16 May; reported from nine other locations.
Fox Sparrow: 1, 6 Tift NP 5 Mar, 5 Apr; max 11 Wellsville ALLE 25 Mar; 5 DLSP 27 Mar; 7 LESP 3 Apr; last Jamestown CHAU, Stiglmeier P ERIE, Tift NP 2 May; good showing.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Stiglmeier P ERIE 19 Mar (NJ), record early; last 2 GHSP 24 May.
Swamp Sparrow: 2 CSWMA, 2 TRWMA 9 Mar, both possible wintering locations; uncertain first arrival.
White-throated Sparrow: max 85 Tift NP 27 Apr.
HARRIS'S SPARROW: PG 19 May (GV, mob), rare.
White-crowned Sparrow: 9 Porter NIAG 11 Mar; 4 Portland CHAU 29 Mar; Unity I NR 31 Mar; only Mar reports; uncertain arrival date for Apr; last Wilson NIAG 30 May.
Yellow-breasted Chat: 2 Canadaway Creek WMA CHAU 27 May (GV), has become scarce in recent years.
Yellow-headed Blackbird: Hamburg ERIE 23 Apr (PMC, mob), in residential yard.
Bobolink: arr 2 Knox Farm SP ERIE 29 Apr.
Eastern Meadowlark: arr Kiantone CHAU 3 Mar; 11 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 13 Mar; max 18 Knox Farm SP ERIE 18 Apr.
Orchard Oriole: arr Tift NP 29 Apr.
Baltimore Oriole: arr Orangeville WYOM 27 Apr.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 2000 Dunkirk CHAU 6 Mar.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 160 Villenova CHAU 17 Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: 40 Cuba ALLE 22 Mar; max 120, 125 Tift NP 22 Mar, 8 Apr; 100 BuSP 4 May; last INWR 19 May.
Common Grackle: max 300 Tift NP 21 Mar.
Ovenbird: arr AmSP, 2 INWR 28 Apr.
Worm-eating Warbler: NFSP 5 May (VR, mob), good find.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Wales ERIE, Emery CP ERIE, Hunters Creek CP 10 Apr.
Northern Waterthrush: arr ACNC, WFWMA 24 Apr.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr Ripley CHAU 7 May; TRWMA 9 May; FLC 11 May; FMCSP 15 May; Great Valley CATT 16 May, heard only.
Blue-winged Warbler: arr Knox Farm SP ERIE, Stiglmeier P ERIE 28 Apr.
“Brewster’s” Warbler: arr AISP 28 Apr (JK); LBSP 16 May; Attica WYOM 31 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr 3 Wilson NIAG, AmSP 27 Apr.
Prothonotary Warbler: arr TWMA 15 May, regular breeding location; INWR 19 May; Tift NP 24 May (SH), late migrant or prospecting male?
Tennessee Warbler: arr AISP 2 May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: arr AmSP 8 May; four other reports.
Nashville Warbler: arr AmSP, Tift NP, Buffalo ERIE, 2 Wilson NIAG, BMAC 27 Apr.
Connecticut Warbler: no reports.
Mourning Warbler: arr AmSP, Jamestown CHAU 3 May.
Kentucky Warbler: Tift NP 28 Apr (SP ph!), rare.
Common Yellowthroat: arr AISP 28 Apr.
Hooded Warbler: arr Cassadaga CHAU 1 May.

American Redstart: arr AISP 28 Apr.
Cape May Warbler: arr WTSP 28 Apr.
Cerulean Warbler: arr INWR 8 May.
Northern Parula: arr AISP 24 Apr.
Magnolia Warbler: arr AISP 1 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr West Seneca ERIE 5 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr Tift NP, AISP 28 Apr.
Yellow Warbler: arr 2 INWR 27 Apr.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr AISP 28 Apr.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr CHMUA 9 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr East Amherst ERIE 29 Apr.
“Western” Palm Warbler: arr EvSP 16 Mar (MN ph! mob), shockingly early.
“Eastern” Palm Warbler: FMCSP 27 Apr (WD, JF ph!), rare.
Pine Warbler: arr FLC 25 Mar; max 10 GHSP 27 Apr.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 71, 200 GHSP 27 Apr, 1 May; 157 LBSP 4 May.
Yellow-throated Warbler: Ripley CHAU 5 May (JC), rare.
Prairie Warbler: arr GHSP 1 May.
BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER: AmSP 20-24 Apr (JBa, mob), 4th Reg record; *see intro*.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr AmSP 24 Apr.
Canada Warbler: arr HBWMA, Ripley CHAU 12 May.
Wilson’s Warbler: arr Bird Swamp CATT 8 May.
SUMMER TANAGER (R1): FLC 12 May (CK), annual in spring recently.
Scarlet Tanager: arr Porter NIAG 28 Apr.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Ripley CHAU 24 Apr.
Indigo Bunting: arr Orangeville WYOM 24 Apr.



REGION 2—GENESEE

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Overall, this was a warm and relatively dry season other than May being the third year in a row with the temperature average below normal. It started with a nice, quiet March; in and out like a lion, but only briefly at either end and long stretches of quiet with lots of sunshine between. It was a mild month, with little snow and only one wind event, on the 26th. Temperatures averaged 39.3° F, 5.0° above normal, while precipitation totaled 1.02", 1.48" below normal. Snowfall at 1.4" was 14.9" below normal. It was the eleventh warmest March on record. Record highs occurred at 68° on 10 March and 71° on 11 March plus a record high low of 50° on the 25th. It was the eighth driest March with the sixth least snow. April followed as a typical see-saw month, the first half warm and the second cooler. Only a few days with measurable snow were scattered through the month. Even winds were a bit less than usual for a spring month. Temperatures averaged 47.2°, 0.9° above normal. The warmest day was 79° on the 10th. Precipitation totaled 3.38", 0.65" above normal, with some rainfall on 16 of the 30 days. Snowfall at 4.7" was 0.8" above normal. Leaf-out was advanced and was coated with 2.8" of snow over 20-21 April. May 2021 continued the cool of late April and moved back to dry. Temperatures averaged 56.9°, 1.9° below normal. It was the third consecutive May with a below normal average. Precipitation totaled 1.28", 1.58" below normal, the seventeenth driest May on record. The only significant rain events were 0.24" on the 7th and 0.57" on the 28th. There was an official trace of snow at the airport and some more on the hilltops south of Rochester through the 9th. The first half of the month and the last five days were cool, with some summer warmth between. One record high was tied at 88° on 26 May.

Looking quickly at the season in general, we start with a record high species count of 149 for March, reflecting most of the lingering half hardies making it into this month and many of the irruptive species also still to be found. There were two species arriving record early, Chimney Swift on the 29th and Yellow-rumped Warbler on the 5th, and a tie record early Caspian Tern on the 28th. The eBird download was about 53,759 lines, up about 20% from last March. April continued with a good number of reports, about 66,401 eBird lines only a few % down from last year. The species count and year-to-date total were right on last year. Spring was well advanced until April cooled later in the month. May's 139,389 eBird lines was <5% down from last year. With the cool late April extending into May, a number of arrivals expected then were delayed, but really only back toward historically average dates. Breeding Bird Atlas work and special May bird counts resulted in 716 unique observers in the eBird download. As usual, the more interesting information lies in the details.

Jumping right into the waterfowl, we find essentially all expected species reported each month. Following recent trends, most peak counts, especially for diving ducks, were low; the bulk of the waterfowl passage seemed to be over by early April; and departure dates for most species were on the early end of their historical distributions. Lake Ontario water levels were on the low side, and levels in much of the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA) were also low. Most peak counts were from the general Lake Ontario and its bays and ponds area or from a very few NMWMA locations. By late April, the Braddock Bay barrier beach island off the East Spit (BB-ES) was becoming an increasingly interesting hotspot. Looking at more specifics, we find good Snow Goose counts in March, lingering small numbers into mid-April, and an individual to late May. Greater White-fronted, Ross's, and Cackling Geese were found into much of March, with a total of about 86 Cackling Geese at 29+ locations. Decent Trumpeter Swan numbers were reported, mostly in the NMWMA and dropping as nesting progressed and vegetation filled in. Tundra Swan was reported in decreasing numbers through a typical May departure, and Mute Swan remained too abundant in the Lake Ontario bays and ponds. Among puddle ducks, the main stories are numbers lingering around the BB-ES site through season's end and low counts from the NMWMA. Eurasian Wigeon had a good showing, with adult males reported from six locations and least three of these certainly different individuals, possibly more. Among the diving ducks, generally low numbers is the major message. In March it was interesting to have a female Harlequin Duck, likely one present most of the winter on the lakeshore, and two immature male Barrow's Goldeneyes in the Genesee River only a short distance in from the mouth to Lake Ontario. One of the goldeneyes is likely an individual reported late in the month in Irondequoit Bay. Among the grebes, numbers were also generally low, though there were a couple of good Red-necked Grebe counts, 192 and 236, in early April and a report of a rare **Eared Grebe** off the Town of Greece on 24 March. A bit out of order, we can note the usual paucity of rail and related marsh bird reports, but, typical of recent years, good numbers of Sandhill Cranes, both migrating and in the expected breeding areas.

Quickly looking at the doves, cuckoos, nightjars, to hummingbirds, we note: the Region's fifth **White-winged Dove** seen and photographed by David Brown as it passed the Braddock Bay Hawkwatch on 8 March; cuckoos at typical arrival dates and in good numbers in gypsy moth caterpillar outbreak areas; Common Nighthawk reports poor; Eastern Whip-poor-will as the usual scattered few; Chimney Swift records early as noted earlier; and many comments around Ruby-throated Hummingbird late to arrive and scarce, though good numbers were reported later.

Shorebirds were off to an uninspiring start in March, though there were a few decent Killdeer counts and the usual early arrivals were reported, American Woodcock on the 3rd and the others in the last third of the month. Later, the BB-ES site, the NMWMA (Carncross Rd.) site, and a scattering of other places produced good shorebird reports, many with photos, for 24 species. The Region's

eighth, ninth, and tenth spring records for **Piping Plover** on 20-21 April, 15 May, and 23 May and **Marbled Godwit** reports on 14, 21, and 31 May plus a spring Stilt Sandpiper, were the rarest. Whimbrel, Red Knot, and Willet are always interesting. Finally, there was an influx of Wilson's Phalaropes, at least 11, with up to three at a pond on Hogan Point Road, Greece on 14 May and up to four at NMWMA (Carncross Rd.) on 19 May; part of a widespread occurrence in the Northeast.

The gull and tern picture was generally on the weak side. Much of this is due to a lack of the usual late-winter ice edges on the bays and ponds and near shore on Lake Ontario, where the gulls usually congregate. Regular species were all reported except Little Gull, a close-to-regular; arrival dates were typical; and "winter gulls" persisted well into May and even beyond. Bonaparte's Gulls arrived as expected, but peak counts, either passing or at resting sites, were low, and none of the rarer gulls often found with them were reported until 1-3 **Laughing Gulls** were observed, first one passing off Greece on 14 May and later at the BB-ES site from 20-28 May. Iceland Gull was seen off and on through the season and Glaucous Gull to 13 May. Lesser Black-backed Gull was especially noteworthy, with good numbers all season and counts to 15 at BB-ES and to 10 at Ontario Beach in May. The terns saw a record-tying arrival for Caspian Tern on 28 March, a few decent counts for that species and Common Tern, a few Black Tern reports, and the second Regional spring report for **Least Tern** at the BB-ES site on 23 May with many observers and photos.

Echoing the diving duck story, loons too were scarce this spring, with the Red-throated Loon peak only 12 in April and Common Loon peaks of 115 and 110 for April and early May, respectively. Double-crested Cormorant had departed in late winter and returned in March and increased through the season as expected. Among the regular species in this grouping up to the vultures, we have relatively early arrival dates for Great Egret and Green Heron and other species' arrivals and counts typical. Then we can turn to a host of fun records. First, there was a very rare spring, **adult Northern Gannet** on 13 May passing the hawkwatch at 7:18 AM and off Sodus Point in Wayne County about 38 miles to the east at 9:42 AM. Next, there were several American White Pelican records from 22 April to 27 May, with a group of **nine** in the Braddock Bay area and nearby on 26 May. Moving on we have a Cattle Egret in that general area on 2 May and **Snowy Egret** there on 28 April and passing off Greece on 13 May (same, or two?). Then, Glossy Ibis in the NMWMA (Carncross Rd.) area on 8 April, Braddock Bay on 10 April, and the Town of Ogden in western Monroe County 12-14 April; up to **22** in the Beechwood State Park area and nearby in Wayne County on 19 May; and one back at the BB-ES site on 24 May. Finally, toss in **White-faced Ibis** at NMWMA (Carncross Rd.) on 18 May and at BB-ES and nearby from 22-23 May, both records with photos. We can then wrap up this grouping with Black Vulture at the Braddock Bay Hawkwatch on 2 April and 22 May and at the NMWMA (Van Dyne Spoor Rd.) area on 2 May. Lots of "good" birds!

With the hawks, we have much data, including lots of notes with the daily counts for the Braddock Bay Hawkwatch at the hawkcount website. Looking at some detail, we start with the official counter again David Brown, who adds good notes on both the raptors and non-raptor species seen, and captures many photos, with posting to eBird as well. The season was off to a good start, with 8506 birds tallied in March. This was down about 1/3 from the 2020 tally, but this just serves to illustrate the variability year to year due to many factors. As usual, Turkey Vulture accounted for 77% of that total. Golden Eagle and Rough-legged Hawk numbers were good, but no Northern Goshawk was tallied, and that would hold for the whole season. In April, most species were up 20-50% over 2020 numbers, except for Golden Eagle flat, Rough-legged Hawk notably up, Broad-winged Hawk way down, and all the regular falcons down a bit. May continued the mixed news, with peak counts and totals down and only 12,804 raptors total for the month, about half of those Broad-winged Hawks. As at least a little compensation, May saw the passage of two **Mississippi Kites** on 25 and 26 May and a light morph immature **Swainson's Hawk** on 26 May, this latter bird also seen passing points to the east. Quickly looking to the falcons, while down some, the numbers were good through the season.

Next, the non-passerines not covered earlier are now mainly owls and woodpeckers. There were only two Snowy Owls, one at the Genesee County Airport near Batavia on 9 March and the second on a road sign along the Lake Ontario Parkway to the west of Braddock Bay on 23 March. Short-eared Owl numbers on the biweekly DEC surveys out of the Avon office remained in double digits through April, and individuals were still noted in the Braddock Bay area into early May. The owl roost monitoring in the Manitou area summarized by Jim Adams added 40 Northern Saw-whet Owls in March and eight more in April for a count season total of 58. Long-eared Owl was found, with 11 in March, 14 in April, and five more to the 13th in May for a total of 31 for the count season. Among the woodpeckers, we note a first Red-headed Woodpecker on 6 April and later about 35 individuals at 25 locations reported in May. They are often resident year-round in the Region, if their winter food supplies are good. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker numbers remained far above typical for late winter into March, with about 31 birds at 21 locations, where normally one would not need to take off even one glove to tally all for the month on your fingers. Finally in this grouping, we again had good Northern Flicker movements noted passing the hawkwatch and farther east passing Beechwood State Park in Wayne County in April.

On to the passerines, our largest group. Way too much data now to address all the interesting observations in great detail. The Noteworthy Records tables on the Rochester Birding Association (RBA) website and banding data with BBBO will have a good deal more, including many detailed records as illustrations, and some will also appear below in the species section. Again, for all three months the many birders out searching and reporting have recorded all the expected passerine species and a few others besides. A warm, open March encouraged the usual early arrivals, and a couple record-early as noted above. Most of this winter's lingering,

half-hardy species were still reported, though at fewer sites and in reduced numbers. Among the full set of winter finches starting this winter, Evening Grosbeak, Hoary Redpoll, and both crossbills were not found in March, but, of these, all but the redpoll were noted again in return flights later and on into May, a typical occurrence after irruption winters. There were actually few real rarities among the passerines all season, with the most notable being **White-eyed Vireo** in late April and May, Clay-colored Sparrow, Yellow-breasted Chat, Prothonotary Warbler, and Prairie Warbler, all species close to being regularly expected. Only Worm-eating Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, and Yellow-throated Warbler, also close to being “expected” species, were missed. In April, banding numbers increased by about 20% over 2020, but net hours also increased about 20% and the total of new bands was close to the average for the prior nine years. With the cool temperatures in late April, only seven species of warblers were banded then and only Yellow-rumped Warbler saw more than five individuals captured (at 22). But overall, 18 species of warblers were reported by all observers in April, the same as in 2020. The cool late April and first half of May led to many comments around late arrivals, especially among flycatchers, some vireos and warblers, and hummingbird, but these generally caught up later. Banders also added a feeling, largely backed up by daily data, that the bulk of their bands were added in the 14-22 May period of a bit warmer weather. Looking at banding totals by species and comparing with their prior 9-year averages, only Cape May Warbler and Northern Parula numbers were two standard deviations or more above their averages. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, “Traill’s” Flycatcher, and Wilson’s Warbler seemed significantly below their averages, but in those three cases peak banding is often in the first week of June, and when those data were included none were two standard deviations or more below their averages. Black-capped Chickadee continued its annual see-saw, with totals for the most recent five years 593, 6, 232, 3, and this year 745.

The usual monthly statistical summary gives us totals of species seen: March – 149 vs. a prior 10-year average of 141.3, April – 198 vs. 200.4, and May – 249 vs. 241.1. Rarities included: Barrow’s Goldeneye, Eared Grebe, **White-winged Dove**, **Piping Plover**, **Marbled Godwit**, Laughing Gull, **Least Tern**, **Northern Gannet**, American White Pelican, Snowy Egret, Cattle Egret, Glossy Ibis, **White-faced Ibis**, Mississippi Kite, Swainson’s Hawk, White-eyed Vireo, Clay-colored Sparrow, Yellow-breasted Chat, Prothonotary Warbler, and Prairie Warbler.

As time goes by, the increase in data available makes selection for treatment and inclusion in these summary reports more and more difficult. Feedback relative to your, the readers’, thoughts and interests is virtually nonexistent and would be much appreciated at any time.

BRADDOCK BAY HAWKWATCH TOTALS

Species	Arrival	Max	Max Date	Total
Black Vulture	4/2	1	4/2, 5/22	2
Turkey Vulture	3/3	2343	4/9	25,778
Mississippi Kite	5/25	1	5/25, 5/26	2
Osprey	3/28	16	4/9	164
Golden Eagle	3/10	5	3/11	20
No. Harrier	3/1	75	4/9	572
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3/10	327	4/9	1785
Cooper's Hawk	3/8	31	4/9	343
No. Goshawk		0		0
Bald Eagle	3/2	73	5/25	830
Red-shouldered Hawk	3/10	85	3/22	390
Broad-winged Hawk	4/9	1705	4/24	11,587
Swainson's Hawk	5/26	1	5/26	1
Red-tailed Hawk	3/3	161	3/11	1956
Rough-legged Hawk	3/3	14	3/11	97
Am. Kestrel	3/10	147	4/9	384
Merlin	3/3	3	4/24	33
Peregrine Falcon	3/11	4	5/15	26
Unidentified		0		0
Short-eared Owl	4/3	1	4/3	1
Total incl unidentified				43,971

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ABBREVIATIONS

b – indicate banded this season, usually at BBBO’s Kaiser-Manitou passerine banding station; **BB** – Braddock Bay, MONR; **BB-ES** – East Spit at mouth of Braddock including newly constructed barrier beach island just off spit; **BB-HW** – Braddock Bay Hawkwatch; **BB-WS** – West Spit of Braddock Bay; **BBBO** – Braddock Bay Bird Observatory; **CIWMA** – Conesus In WMA, LIVI; **ConL** – Conesus L, LIVI; **DEP** – Durand-Eastman P, Rochester; **ED** – off Edgemere Dr., T Greece, MONR; **G** – T Greece, MONR; **H** – T Hamlin, MONR; **HANA** – High Acres Nature Area, T Perinton, MONR; **HB** – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; **HB-W** – Hamlin Beach SP, West end trails; **HB-YC** – Hamlin Beach SP, Yanty Creek trails at east end; **IBO** – Irondequoit Bay Outlet to Lake Ontario; **IB-S** – Irondequoit Bay south, LaSalle Landing P and nearby; **IB-W** – west side of Irondequoit Bay water and parks; **ICW** – Island Cottage Woods, T Greece, MONR; **LSP** – Letchworth SP; **M** – Manitou Beach area, MONR; **M-OW** – Owl Woods area west of Manitou Beach Rd., MONR; **MP** – Mendon Ponds P, MONR; **NMWMA** – Northern Montezuma WMA, T of Savannah, WAYN; **NMWMA (AR)** – north side of Armitage Rd.; **NMWMA (CR)** – along Camcross Rd. east of Savannah-Spring Lake Rd.; **NMWMA (GBM)** – Guy Baldassarre Marsh, T Savannah; **NMWMA (MRdM)** – Morgan Rd. marshes near DEC field office; **NMWMA (SCU)** – Sandhill Crane Unit, T Savannah, WAYN; **NMWMA (VDSR)** – area along Van Dyne Spoor Rd., T Savannah, WAYN; **OB** – Ontario Beach P, T Charlotte, MONR; **PtB** – Point Breeze, Orleans County at border with Region 1; **SalCrk** – Salmon Creek, T Greece just inland from BB; **SPt** – Sodus Pt, WAYN; **TCEA** – Twin Cedars Environmental Area, T Avon, LIVI; **W** – T of Webster, MONR; **WP** – Webster P., MONR.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 10,000 Penfield Rd, T Macedon WAYN 19 Mar (BCar, DSh, MT, JWi); max 12,000 NMWMA (West Shore Trail) 21 Mar (KBard); last NMWMA (CR) 30 May (JMcG, GC).

Ross’s Goose: off Edgemere Dr, G 11 Mar (MBa); 2 NMWMA (CR) 11 Mar (W&MR); 1-2 Carey Lake, T Macedon WAYN 18-20 Mar (MG, BCar, DSh).

Snow x Canada Goose: SalCrk, G 7 Mar (MBa).

Greater White-fronted Goose: N Hamlin Rd nr Westphal Rd, H 12-14 Mar (AGu, 16+ oth obs), only reports.

Brant: arr 31 BB-ES 27 May (MBa), only rep.

Cackling Goose: max 13 BB-HW 10 Mar (DBr); total ~86 ind 29+ loc Mar, good showing.

Canada Goose: max 63000 BB-HW 10 Mar (DBr).

Mute Swan: max 250 IB-W 3 Mar; 175 Buck Pd, G 15 Mar; 134 Buck Pd, G 28 Apr, Apr max; 192 IB-W 12 May.

Trumpeter Swan: max 29 NMWMA (CR) 9 Apr.

Tundra Swan: max 700 BB-HW 11 Mar (DBr); last SalCrk 6 May.

Wood Duck: max 47 CIWMA 27 May, low max.

Blue-winged Teal: arr NMWMA (CR) 24 Mar; BB-ES 29 May, species present all month in areas nr Lake Ontario, unusual in recent years.

Northern Shoveler: max 250 Sodus Bay at Old Ridge Rd 3 Apr (TL); 1-4 BB-ES all May, unusual in recent years.

Gadwall: max 200 BB-HW 12 Mar (DBr); 9 Beatty Pt, G 29 May (CW), late for loc.

Eurasian Wigeon: arr 1m IB-W 10-21 Apr (GF, mob, ph); 1m BB-HW 11 Apr (DBr, GLaw); 1m NMWMA (CR) 11Apr (GDa, W&MR); 1m NMWMA (SCU) 12-17 Apr

(W&MR, 5+ oth obs); 1m Buck Pd, G 15-24 Apr (CMit); 1m Northrup Crk area, G 23 Apr (CMit).
American Wigeon: 900 Buck Pd, G 23 Apr (CMi).
Mallard: max 300 NMWMA (CR) 11 Mar, low max.
American Black Duck: max 55 NMWMA (VDSR) 17 Mar.
Northern Pintail: max 1500 NMWMA (West Shore Trail) 21 Mar (KB); last BB-ES 24 May.
Green-winged Teal: max 200 Sodus Bay 3 Apr (TL); last 2 HB 25 May (AGU).
Canvasback: max 150 Spt 1 Mar (W&MR); last BB-HW 25 Apr.
Redhead: max 600 Spt 1 Mar (W&MR), low max; last HB 22 May.
Ring-necked Duck: max 350 BB 15 Mar, low max; 2 DEP 15 May.
Greater Scaup: max 345 BB 9 Mar, low max; BB-ES 26 May, ph.
Lesser Scaup: max 250 Spt 3 Mar, low max.
Harlequin Duck: last 1f ED 10-11 Mar (MBa).
Surf Scoter: last 3 HB-YC 28 Apr.
White-winged Scoter: max 42 OB 6 Mar, low max; last 2 HB 14 May.
Black Scoter: last 1m off Dewey Av, G 1 May (R&SSp).
Long-tailed Duck: max 1460 HB-YC 25 Apr (AGU); 890 HB-YC 8 May (AGU).
Bufflehead: max 158 Castile WYOM 7 Apr (LMou).
Common Goldeneye: max 125 sev loc 7-10 Mar; last 4 off Lakeshore Dr, W 8 May.
Barrow's Goldeneye: 1-2 imm m Genesee R mouth area 1-8 Mar (mob, ph); last 1 imm m IB-S 18 Mar (NU, ph).
Common Merganser: max 250 IBO 7 Mar.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 1116 HB 20 Apr (RSp); 530 ED 8 May (MBa), late for number.
Pied-billed Grebe: arr 1-2 sev loc 12 Mar; max 55 NMWMA (CR) 24 May.
Horned Grebe: max 41 Bear Crk Harbor WAYN 8 Mar, low max; last sev loc 9 May.
Red-necked Grebe: arr 12 Centenary Shores WAYN 9 Mar (BHac, ArJ, JH, MJ, GH); 361 HB 6 Apr (AGU); last 2 Lac de Ville, T Brighton HB 6 May.
EARED GREBE (R2): ED 24 Apr (MBa).
WHITE-WINGED DOVE: BB-HW 8 May (DBr, ph), 5th Reg record.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr Letchworth SP 9 May.

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Abraham Lincoln P, W & Wynn's Wood, T Brighton 15 May.
Common Nighthawk: arr Indian Fort NP & 2 G 15 May; max 104 ED 21 May (MBa).
Eastern Whip-poor-will: arr 2 M-OW (KS) & T Gates MONR (B&BM) 28 Apr; last Pond View Heights, ROC 18 May (NR).
Chimney Swift: arr BB-HW 29 Mar (DBr), Reg record early; max 55 Cobbs Hill P ROCH 6 May; 54 Park Ave ROCH 3 May.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr sev loc 1 May; total b 37 BBBO 10-30 May.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Virginia Rail: arr Ellison P, T Penfield 2 Apr.
Sora: arr NMWMA (Deep Muck) & GBM 13 Apr.
Common Gallinule: arr NMWMA (GBM) 10 Apr.
American Coot: max 71 IB-S 15 Apr, low max.
Sandhill Crane: total 24 BB-HW 3-30 Mar; max 12 NMWMA (MRdM) 27 Mar (MG); total 40 ind 20+ loc 2-30 Mar; total ~42 ind 13+ loc Apr; max 14 NMWMA (MRdM & CR) 3 & 23 Apr (5 obs); total 9 BB-HW 1-30 May; 40+ ind 17+ oth loc May; max 22 NMWMA (Savannah mucklands) 23 May (W&MR).
Black-bellied Plover: arr BB-ES 29 Mar (DBr, MG, PMar, AGU, ph); max 18 BB-ES 25 May.
Semipalmated Plover: arr Peter Smith Rd, T Kendall ORLE 12 May; max 76 Hemlock L – S 21 May (BCar, MG).
PIPING PLOVER (R2): BB-ES 20; 21 May (MBa; JaG, RR), 8th Reg spring record, record early; BB-ES 15 May (MBa, 28+ oth obs phs), 9th Reg spring record; BB-ES 23 May (DBr, 49+ oth, phs), 10th Reg spring record, previously banded.
Killdeer: max 50 BB-HW 11 Mar.
Upland Sandpiper: no reports.
Whimbrel: arr BB-ES (MBa, sev oth obs) & IB-S (15+ obs) 26 May; 1-2 BB-ES 27 May (RB, 6 oth obs).
MARBLED GODWIT (R2): arr 14 Hogan Pt Pd 14 May (RCi, 38+ oth obs, phs); BB-ES 21 May (DBr; BB-ES 31 May (B&LSpr, RSp).
Ruddy Turnstone: arr 1-2 BB & Spt 19 May.
Red Knot: 1-2 BB-ES 27 May thru (CGi, 41+ oth obs, phs).
Stilt Sandpiper: BB-ES 25 May (MBa, 18+ oth obs, phs), rare in spring

Sanderling: arr 2 BB-ES 25 May thru (mob, phs), often scarce in spring.

Dunlin: arr BB-WS 27 Mar (D&ER), early; max 189 BB-ES 22 May (AGa).

Least Sandpiper: arr 3 NMWMA (CR) 3 Apr (R&SSp), early; 250 Hemlock L – S 15 May (BHo); max 350 NMWMA (CR) 18 May (TL).

White-rumped Sandpiper: arr BB-ES & SalCrk, G 14 May.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 2 NMWMA (CR) 30 Mar; max 22 NMWMA (CR) 9 Apr, low max.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr 3 BB-ES 16 May; max 144 BB-ES 25 May (MBa, GLaw, AGu).

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr BB-ES & NMWMA (CR) 16 May.

American Woodcock: arr Sand Rd, T W. Bloomfield ONTA 3 Mar.

Wilson's Snipe: arr 3 N Hamlin Rd fields & 1 T Walworth WAYN 21 Mar; max 37 Peter Smith Rd, T Kendall ORLE 27 Apr (AGu).

Spotted Sandpiper: arr Hemlock L – N 19 Apr; max 15 BB-ES 22 May (JaG, RR), high.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr Buttonwood Crk, G 3 Apr (CGi, ET, ph), early.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr SalCrk, G 30 Mar; max 52 CIWMA 10 May (MW).

Willet: arr NMWMA (CR) 2 May (MT); OB 5 May (JiM); BB-ES 23 May (DBr, 7 oth obs).

Greater Yellowlegs: arr BB–Burger P 21 Mar (MBa), early; max 40 NMWMA (CR) 11 Apr (W&MR), low max.

Wilson's Phalarope: arr Moscow Rd puddle nr West Fork 14 May (RSp, 8 oth obs, phs); arr 1-3 Hogan Pt Pd, G 14-16 May (HSw, 32+ oth obs, phs); 1-2 BB-ES 17-25 May (27+ obs, phs); 2 Berg Rd, T Ontario WAYN 15 May (DE); NMWMA (CR) 17 May (W&ME); 3; 4 NMWMA (CR) 19 May (MG; NK, RB); flooded field nr Piffard LIVI 20 May (JK); major incursion.

Large shorebird sp.: 35 headed W over I-90 nr Victor ONTA 25 May (BroM), likely Whimbrel.

Bonaparte's Gull: arr 4 OB 5 Mar; max 63 SalCrk, G 2 Apr (NU), low max.

LAUGHING GULL (R2): 1 ad ED 14 May (MBa); 1 ad BB-ES 20-28 May (DBr, GLaw, phs, mob); 3 BB-ES 23 May (FL, TC).

Ring-billed Gull: max 1750 BB-HW 26 May (DBr).

Herring Gull: max 1500 BB-HW 1, 4, 6 Mar (DBr).

Iceland Gull: total 10 ind 8 loc 5-16 Mar; total 9 ind 9 loc 3-28 Apr; BB-HW 2 May (DBr,

mob, phs); 3 OB 5 May (JiM); last OB 28 May (AGu).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 7 ind 6 loc 2-21 Mar; ~30 ind 16 loc Apr; 253 eBird lines May; 10 OB 8 May (AGu); 14 BB-ES 27 May (AGu); max 15 BB-ES 31 May (DBr); large numbers, especially late in the season.

Glaucous Gull: total 10 ind 7 loc 1-20 Mar; 6 ind 6 loc 2-28 Apr; last Lakeshore Marshes WMA WAYN (W&MR) & Sodus Bay (MG) 13 May.

Larus species: 5000 BB-HW 6 Mar (DBr).

LEAST TERN: BB-ES 1 May (DBr, 19+ oth obs, phs), 2nd Reg spring record.

Caspian Tern: arr Sodus Bay **28 Mar** (W&MR), tie Reg record early; max 250 BB-ES 2 May (SG).

Black Tern: arr BB-ES 7 May (GLaw).

Common Tern: arr 3 HB 9 Apr (AGu); max 85 BB-ES 30 Apr (DBr, GLaw).

Forster's Tern: arr BB-ES 28 Apr (DBr, GLaw).

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: max 12 ED 9 Mar, very low max; last 3 HB 17 May.

Common Loon: max 115 HB 19 Apr, low max; 110 HB-YC 8 May.

NORTHERN GANNET (R2): 1 ad BBBO 13 May (MGrey), flyover at 7:18 AM; 1 ad SPt 13 May (MG), flyby at 942 AM, rare in spring.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 700 BB-HW 1 May, low max.

American White Pelican: arr BB area 22 Apr (DBr, MBa, SG); 9 BB-HW (DBr, *et al.*) & Greece ponds farther east later (mob, phs) 26 May; 2 BB area 27 May (mob).

American Bittern: arr NMWMA (GBM) 13 Apr (GD, KGa, AnM).

Least Bittern: arr BB-WS 2 May.

Great Egret: arr Sandra L. Frankel NP, T Brighton 27 Mar (J&TV), early.

SNOWY EGRET (R2): arr BB to SalCrk 28 Apr (GLaw, 24+ oth obs, phs); ED 13 May (MBa), passing, rare.

Cattle Egret: 1 ad alt Manitou to BB area 2 May (KMcG, 26+ oth obs, phs), rare in spring.

Green Heron: arr Nunda-Dalton Rd, LIVI 28 Mar (JGo, ph), early.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr Ellison P, T Penfield 23 Apr (JiM).

Glossy Ibis: arr BB-HW 10 Apr (KGa, AA, ph); Rt 531, T Ogden MONR 12-14 Apr (BBR, 40+ oth obs, phs); **22** Beechwood SP WAYN area 19 May (RB, NK, MG, JWi); 7

Beechwood SP WAYN area 19 May (HN, JSh); BB-ES 24 May (BCar, 10+ oth obs).
WHITE-FACED IBIS: NMWMA (CR) 18 May (KGa, MG, W&MR, phs); BB-ES 22-23 May (AGu, 48+ oth obs, phs), rare.
Black Vulture: BB-HW 2 Apr, 22 May (DBr, phs); NMWMA (VDSR) 2 May (W&MR).
Turkey Vulture: total 6618 BB-HW 3-30 Mar; max 1980 BB-HW 30 Mar; total 14363 BB-HW Apr; 1151 Broadway Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 10 Apr (GWO); *intro*.
Osprey: arr NMWMA (VDSR) 22 Mar (W&MR), early.
Golden Eagle: max 5 BB-HW 11 Mar; total 12 BB-HW 10-25 Mar; total ~13 ind 9 oth loc 1-25 Mar; total 6 BB-HW 5-19 Apr; Beechwood SP WAYN 3 Apr (TL); Broadway Rd, T Wolcott WAYN 10 Apr (GWO); BB-HW 1,12 May.
Northern Goshawk: no reports.
Bald Eagle: 632 lines eBird Mar; 520 lines eBird Apr; 667 lines eBird May; down some from 2020; max 73 BB-HW 25 May; total 506 BB-HW May.
MISSISSIPPI KITE: BB-HW 25 May (DBr, MG); ED 25 May (MBa); BB-HW 26 May (DBr, MG).
Broad-winged Hawk: arr 14 BB-HW 9 Apr, early; max 1705 BB-HW 24 Apr, low max.
SWAINSON'S HAWK: 1b lt morph imm Manitou & seen at points east 26 May (BBRR, 14 oth obs).
Rough-legged Hawk: total 64 BB-HW Mar; total ~72 ind many oth loc Mar; total 28 BB-HW 1-24 Apr; last BB-HW 15 May (DBr, *et al.*).
Eastern Screech-Owl: Bushnell's Basin MONR Apr (C&HH), red morph, rare.
Snowy Owl: 1 f Genesee County Airport 9 Mar (CCh); Lake Ontario State Parkway, T Parma 23 Mar (R&SSp, ph, GLaw, BWat).
Long-eared Owl: total 11 M-OW 7-31 Mar; total 14 M-OW 9-30 Apr; total 5 M-OW 1, 2, 5, 6, 13 May, ph, surprise late burst.
Short-eared Owl: max 28 DEC Owl Survey, sev loc 16 Mar; total 13 ind DEC Owl Survey, sev loc 27 Apr; last 1-2 BB area 1 May (CGa, R&SSp), late.
Northern Saw-whet Owl: total 40 M-OW Mar; 18b & 1 recap BBBO 17 Mar (AP); total 8 M-OW 1-2, 28 Apr.
Red-headed Woodpecker: arr HB 6 Apr; total ~35 ind 25 loc May.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: total ~31 ind 21 loc 3-31 Mar, most potentially overwintering; 264 eBird lines Apr, high number.
Northern Flicker: 51 BB-HW 8 Apr (DBr); max 80 Beechwood SP WAYN 28 Apr (TL).
American Kestrel: 154 eBird lines Mar; 328 eBird lines Apr, high; 34 BB-HW 1-25 May; 141 eBird lines many oth loc May.
Merlin: total ~78 ind 25 loc Mar; total 17 BB-HW 4-30 Apr; ~32 ind many oth loc 4-30 Apr; 6 BB-HW 2-21 May; total ~28 ind 20+ oth loc May; pr nesting 19th Ward ROCH May (LBra).
Peregrine Falcon: total ~24 ind 20 loc 4-31 Mar; total 5 BB-HW 7-27 Apr; total ~20 ind 13 oth loc Apr; total 16 BB-HW 1-25 May; ~19 ind 16 oth loc May; nesting in downtown Rochester, see posts rfalconcam website & *intro*.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Recall, for species where the only notable record is arrival and that is in the arrival date table, there may be no entry in this section.

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr Beatty Pt, G 28 Apr (KH).
Eastern Kingbird: arr CIWMA 26 Apr (AF).
Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Hamlin 18 Apr (AGu); total 3 ind 3 loc 18; 30; 31 May.
Eastern Wood-Pewee: arr Highland P ROCH 11 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Firehouse Wood, G 17 May; total b 14 BBBO 20-26 May.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr Dishmill Crk, LSP 16 May.
Alder Flycatcher: arr Nations Rd IBA LIVI 14 May (TB), early.
Willow Flycatcher: arr 2 Dishmill Crk, LSP 9 May (TBo, LH).
“Traill’s” Flycatcher: max b 20 BBBO 26 May; total b 69 BBBO 17 May thru.
Least Flycatcher: arr Ellison P, T Penfield 30 Apr; total b 38 BBBO 3, 14-27 May.
Eastern Phoebe: arr Ganonadagan SHS 15 Mar.
Northern Shrike: 6 rep, 4 ind 2 loc 1-20 Mar, early dep.
WHITE-EYED VIREO (R2): MP 29 Apr (NU, ph); 1b M 12 May (BBBO).
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Cobbs Hill P, ROCH 28 Apr, early.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr Mission Rd, T Conesus 19 Apr; Persimmon P, T Brighton

MONR 9 Apr (RB, JWa), Reg record early; total B 6 BBBO 27 Apr-22 May.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Ellison P, T Penfield 13 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr Dishmill Crk, LSP 2 May; total b 32 M 15-30 May; 914 eBird lines May.

Blue Jay: max 4300 BB-WS 11 May (GLaw), good count; total b 136 BBBO 18 & 19 Apr, 1-24, 31 May.

American Crow: max 2000 NMWMA (CR) 9 Mar (W&MR), low max; typically max nr BB.

Fish Crow: 13 HB 14 Apr (AGu), many for loc; max 14 Beechwood SP WAYN 2 May (TL), new loc.

Horned Lark: max 90 BB-HW 11 Mar, low max.

Purple Martin: arr BB-HW 4 Apr.

Tree Swallow: arr BB-HW 11 Mar; max 525 Beechwood SP WAYN 3 Apr, low max.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: arr BB-HW 30 Mar; max 200 Beechwood SP WAYN 30 Apr.

Bank Swallow: arr 2 IB-W & West Port Bay, T Huron WAYN 16 Apr; max 200 IB-W 4 May & HB-W 22 May, low max.

Cliff Swallow: arr West Port Bay, T Huron WAYN 16 Apr.

Barn Swallow: arr BB-HW 24 Mar (DBr); max 250 Hemlock L – S 11 May.

Black-capped Chickadee: 1988 eBird lines Mar; 2018 eBird lines Apr; max b 106 BBBO 17 Apr; total b 745 BBBO 25 Mar- 28 May; 2525 eBird lines May.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 682 eBird lines Mar; 414 eBird lines Apr; 653 eBird lines May.

White-breasted Nuthatch: 1161 eBird lines Mar; total b 0 season.

Brown Creeper: total b 23 BBBO 25 Mar-5 May.

Winter Wren: 15 ind 14 loc 3-31 Mar, most overwintered.

Marsh Wren: arr NMWMA (CR) 11 Apr; max 20 BB – Buttonwood Crk 15 May (D&ER) & Turning Point P ROCH 30 May (CW), good counts.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max b 22 BBBO 27 Apr; total b 70 BBBO 7 Apr-16 May.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Highland P ROCH 7 Apr (KW); max b 101 BBBO 27 Apr; 30 sev loc 29 Apr; max 89 Beechwood SP WAYN 1 May (EBS); 82 HB-W 1 May (AGu); 32b BBBO 1 May; total b 534 BBBO 8 Apr-18 May; last M-OW 29 May (CW).

Veery: arr 2 Oatka Crk P MONR 28 Apr (JGu); total b 15 BBBO 16-25 May.

Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr Oatka Crk P 18 May; total b 4 BBBO 22-27 May, low.

Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush: total b 4 BBBO 20-29 May, low.

Swainson's Thrush: arr Highland P ROCH 4 May (KH); max b 13 BBBO 25 May, low; total b 65 BBBO 16-31 May.

Hermit Thrush: 9 ind 7 loc Mar; total b 18 BBBO 25 Apr-19 May.

Wood Thrush: arr 1-2 ind 3 loc 28 Apr.

American Robin: max 645 BB-HW 25 Mar; 2142 eBird lines Mar.

Gray Catbird: 9 ind 8 loc 8-27 Mar; arr Sandra L. Frankel NP, T Brighton 4 Apr; max 33 HB_W 19 May (AGu); max b 45 BBBO 16 May; total b 325 BBBO 5-31 May.

Cedar Waxwing: max 1375 HB 26 May (AGu).

American Pipit: arr 2 Hamlin 10 Mar; max 200 BB-HW 3 May (DBr); Jacobs Rd, H 26 May (PMar).

Evening Grosbeak: max 30 nr Linwood, T York LIVI 9 May (NG); last ED 29 May (CW), historically typical.

Pine Grosbeak: last MP 7 Mar (JiM, LMa).

Common Redpoll: max 95 BB-HW 12 Mar (DBr); 60 Nations Rd IBA 6 Apr (RSp); last Lake Rd, W 18 Apr (PMab).

Red Crossbill: max 45 Holy Sepulchre Cemetery ROCH 13 Mar (BriM); last 9 Grandview Heights, G 22 May (KGr).

White-winged Crossbill: last 6 Beechwood SP WAYN 15 May (TL).

Pine Siskin: max 70-71 Beechwood SP WAYN 3 may (BCar, MG).

American Goldfinch: max 75 BB-HW 9 May, low max.

Lapland Longspur: max 25 BB-HW 26 Mar (DBr); last NMWMA (AR) 8 May (Team Sapsucker 2021).

Snow Bunting: last NMWMA (Railroad Rd.) Mar, early dep.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: arr 1 Cornwall Pres WAYN & 2 Beechwood SP WAYN 28 Mar.

American Tree Sparrow: last Moscow Rd., H 29 Apr.

Clay-colored Sparrow: arr Cook Rd, H 2 sites 8 May; 1-2 Cook Rd, H sev sites 8-31 May.

Field Sparrow: arr T Canadice ONTA 22 Mar.

Savannah Sparrow: arr N Hamlin Rd 23 Mar.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr T Henrietta MONR 3 May (MW).

Fox Sparrow: max 20 Highland P ROCH 5 Apr (JBal, DHe); last Thousand Acre Swamp, T Penfield & CIWMA 2 May.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Church Trail, G 1 May; total b 29 BBBO 15-29 May.

Swamp Sparrow: max 40 CIWMA 2 May (BCar).

White-throated Sparrow: max 43 BB P 2 May, low max; max b 18 BBBO 15 May, low; total b 115 BBBO 19 Apr-26 May, low.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 80 Highland P, ROCH 9 Apr, ok count.

Yellow-breasted Chat: HB-W 21 May (AGu).

Bobolink: arr 1-3 sev loc 2 May; max 45 Nations Rd IBA 20 May.

Eastern Meadowlark: arr Doran & Townline Rds, T Lima LIVI 10 Mar (BHo).

Orchard Oriole: arr Marrowback Rd, T Conesus LIVI (SM) & Lagrange Rd WYOM (RSt) 1 May.

Baltimore Oriole: arr 1-2 ind 4 loc 28 Apr; max 31 BB-WS 11 May (GLaw) & HB 14 May (AGu); 3147 eBird lines May.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 2000 Church Rd, H 13 Mar & NMWMA (West Shore Trail) 21 Mar; 4382 eBird lines May.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 325 NMWMA (West Shore Trail) 21 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 3 BB-WS 3 Mar (MG); max 150 BB-HW 9 Apr & NMWMA (AR) 8 May; last 2 CIWMA 19 May.

Common Grackle: max 1000 NMWMA (West Shore Trail) 21 Mar, low max; 3535 eBird lines May.

Ovenbird: arr 4 loc 28 Apr; total b 23 BBBO 5-26 May.

Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Jersey Hill Rd, Honeoye 23 Apr.

Northern Waterthrush: arr 1b BBBO 25 Apr; total b 36 BBBO 25 Apr-31 May.

Golden-winged Warbler: arr Firehouse Woods, G 2 May (MBa, GLaw), early; 1b BBBO 20 May; 8 ind 8 loc 2-31 May.

Blue-winged Warbler: arr 1-3 Mendon, sev loc 29 Apr.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr 4 T Victor ONTA 27 Apr; total b 26 BBBO 29 Apr-24 May.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (R2): NMWMA (AR) 3 May thru (GDa, 67 oth eBird lines); Abraham Lincoln P, T Penfield 12 May (D&VH); NMWMA (CR) 20 May (BBE).

Tennessee Warbler: arr T Penfield 6 May; max 22 DEP 18 & 24 May (JSI); max b 14 BBBO 18 May; total b 49 BBBO 15-27 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr Cranberry Pd Nature Trail 2 May (BriM); 1b BBBO 22 May; total ~10 ind 9 loc 2-27 May, typical number for species.

Nashville Warbler: arr 2 Nunda-Dalton Rd LIVI 27 Apr (JGo), early; total b 34 BBBO 29 Apr-22 May.

Mourning Warbler: arr Hemlock L – S & NMWMA (AR) 15 May; total b 14 BBBO 20-27 May.

Common Yellowthroat: arr MP & NMWMA (AR) 29 Apr; max 20 MP 13 May (RW) & Lakeshores Marshes WMA 14 May (DW); total b 93 BBBO 5-31 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr Highland P ROCH 28 Apr (KW).

American Redstart: arr 3 loc 2 May; max 30 HB-YC 21 May (AGu); max b 24 BBBO 21 May; total b 163 BBBO 6-31 May.

Cape May Warbler: arr Beechwood SP WAYN 28 Apr; total b 13 BBBO 14-19 May; last Cemetery Mountain Bike Trail ROCH 29 May (CW).

Cerulean Warbler: arr 2 NMWMA (VDSR) 3 May.

Northern Parula: arr Whiting Rd NP, W 18 Apr (JaG, JeG, RR), early; total b 19 BBBO 3, 14-21 May.

Magnolia Warbler: arr BB-ES (LBe) & BB (D&JC) & Honeoye Falls (BCar) 2 May, early; max b 65 BBBO 21 May; total b 189 BBBO 10-31 May; low numbers.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Genesee River Trail 5 May; 28 M-OW 21 May (CGo); max b 15 BBBO 20 May, total b 47 BBBO 15-25 May.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr 1b BBBO & LSP 28 Apr; total b 13 BBBO 15-26 May.

Yellow Warbler: arr 4 Lakeshore Marshes WMA WAYN 23 Apr (LCB, SBe), early; max 43 HB-W 19 May (AGu); max b 21 BBBO 18 May; total b 153 BBBO 28 Apr-29 May; 1307 eBird lines May.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr 1-2 Cobbs Hill P ROCH 29 Apr (7 obs); max 13 BB-WS 17 May (DF); max b 10 BBBO 20 May; total b 47 BBBO 11-31 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr 1-2 ind 3 loc 15 May; total b 20 BBBO 19-31 May, low.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Greece River Trail 28 Apr; max b 21 BBBO 15 May; total b 69 M BBBO 3-31 May.

Palm Warbler: arr HB 10 Apr (AGu, BriM), early; max 44 BB-ES 4 May (MBa); max b 23 BBBO 15 May; total b 76 BBBO 18 Apr-18 May; last Church Trail, G 26 May.

Pine Warbler: arr 2 Hemlock L – S 28 Mar (BHo), early.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr 2 Corbetts Glen, T Penfield 5 Mar (KMU), early; 100 ICW 27 Apr (PMar); 125 BB-HW 3 May (DBr); max 650 Beechwood SP WAYN 3 May (BCar); max b 73 BBBO 15 May; total b 254 BBBO 20 Apr-21 May, good numbers; 1307 eBird lines May.

Prairie Warbler: arr Wetmore & Townline Rds, T Wayland LIVI 4 May (TB); total~6 ind 6 lov 4-24 May (17+ obs).

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Cobbs Hill P 24 Apr (PMar); max 33 IB-W 19 May (LBe); total b 14 BBBO 5-27 May.

Canada Warbler: arr nr Dansville LIVI 8 May (OA); total b 33 BBBO 17-27 May.

Wilson's Warbler: arr HB-YC 14 May; max b 11 BBBO 20 May; total b 39 BBBO 17-31 May.

Scarlet Tanager: arr 2 Dishmill Crk, LSP 3 May.

Northern Cardinal: 2351 eBird lines Mar; 2751 eBird lines Apr; 4109 eBird lines May.

Indigo Bunting: arr South Conesus LIVI 5 May; max 18 HB 26 May (AGu); total b 14 BBBO 14-31 May, low.

REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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March 2021 was warmer and drier than normal. April was warmer and wetter than normal. May was cooler and wetter than normal. In Ithaca, the average low temperature in March was 24.1° F, 2.3° above normal. The average high temperature was 47.0°, 6.2° above normal. Total precipitation was 1.19", 1.59" less than normal. Snowfall totaled 1.9", 10.1" less than normal. Snow depth peaked at 3" on 1 March. Measurable amounts of snow were on the ground from 1 to 9 March. In April, the average low temperature was 34.5°, 1.6° above normal and the average high was 55.1°, 0.6° above normal. The 3.88" of precipitation was 0.48" more than normal. Total snowfall was 4.1", 1.3" more than normal. May had an average low temperature of 54.3°, 1.3° below normal and average high temperature of 66.2°, 1.1° below normal. Precipitation was 4.05", 0.85" more than normal. Warm fronts passed through the Region on 4, 9, 18, 21, 26, and 31 March; 4, 11, 14, 18, 24, and 28 April; and 3, 5, 13, 18, and 26 May.

The peak of migrating Canada Geese occurred 9-10 March. Snow Goose numbers peaked 17 March. Most of the Ross's Goose observations were of individuals spotted among flocks of Snow Geese flying overhead. The only White-fronted Goose report was at Geneva in mid-March. Brant passed through the Region in a narrow 5-day window in mid-May. Cackling Geese made an early departure with the last seen 22 March. Barnacle x Snow and Snow x Canada Goose hybrids appeared again at Seneca Lake State Park in early March. The latter hybrid was also reported from Cayuga Lake and from Ithaca. Tundra Swans

peaked 10 March and made an early departure with the last reported 20 March. Observers reported high counts for Mute and Trumpeter Swans.

There was nothing extraordinary to report regarding dabbling ducks, except the high count of 100 Wood Ducks from Queen Catharine Marsh. Single Eurasian Wigeons were at the north end of Seneca Lake and the south end of Cayuga Lake. Reports of two came from Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR). *Aythya* ducks were abundant with high counts reported for Canvasback, Redhead, and both scaup species. A **Tufted Duck** was on Canandaigua Lake during the first three weeks of March. Myers Point hosted the high count of 100 White-winged Scoters.

Fifty Mourning Doves at a location in the Town of Van Etten and 22 migrating Common Nighthawks at the Bluegrass Lane Natural Area were high counts. Encouragingly, Eastern Whip-poor-will reports came from five different counties in the Region. The first reports from Chemung and Steuben on 28 April were early arrivals.

Three constitutes a high spring count for the elusive Sora and that was the count in the Town of Lansing, at the Etna Fringed Gentian Area, and at MNWR. The count of 21 Sandhill Cranes at MNWR was also high for spring.

Arrival dates for shorebirds were generally normal. Observers reported high counts for several species: Whimbrel, Least Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Greater Yellowlegs, and Wilson's Phalarope. A **Ruff** was at MNWR on 22 May. The Region's only Long-billed Dowitcher was at MNWR on 12 May.

A Bonaparte's Gull at Canandaigua Lake on 3 March was early. Unusual gulls were a Black-legged Kittiwake at Seneca Lake Camp in mid-April, Little Gulls at Canandaigua, Cayuga, and Seneca Lakes from early April to early May, a Laughing Gull at Seneca Lake in late May, a Franklin's Gull at Myers Point in mid-April, and Glaucous Gull at Cayuga Lake in early March. Tern arrival dates were normal for all four species that regularly occur in the Region. The count of 85 Common Terns at Long Point State Park in early May was high.

Bittern and heron arrival dates were normal. High counts were reported for American Bittern, Great Blue Heron, and Black-crowned Night-Heron. Three Glossy Ibises arrived at MNWR in mid-April and continued into early May. A **White-faced Ibis** appeared there for one day in mid-May.

The last Golden Eagle in the Region was spotted on 3 April, an early departure date. Bald Eagles were abundant with a new high count of 77 at MNWR in mid-May. The only Northern Saw-whet Owl report came from the Town of Ithaca in mid-March. A nest full of Peregrine chicks with their parents at Taughannock Falls State Park produced a spring high count of six.

Stewart Park attracted a high count of Belted Kingfishers and Sapsucker Woods produced a high count of Red-bellied Woodpeckers. The Regionally scarce Red-headed Woodpecker occurred in five counties.

Except for an early arriving Olive-sided Flycatcher at Breesport Park on 6 May, arrival dates and maximum counts of flycatchers were normal. An estimated 5000 American Crows at Stewart Park was a new high.

A Cliff Swallow at MNWR on 31 March was early. There was a high count of Northern Rough-winged Swallows at the Horseheads Marsh and of Barn Swallows at Lake Road Bluff in the Town of Ledyard.

Observers found individual Sedge Wrens in the Town of Starkey and in the Town of Caroline in early May. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Ithaca on 6 March was early. Twenty Eastern Bluebirds in the Town of Ithaca in late March was high. A Brown Thrasher in the Town of Elmira on 1 April was early. The maximum count of 42 Cedar Waxwings was low. The count of 50 House Sparrows at Stewart Park was high.

The Region had an almost complete assortment of winter finches lingering. One Evening Grosbeak lingered through the end of the season in the Town of Van Etten where the peak number had reached 84 in early May. There was a high count of Purple Finches in the Town of Erin. Common Redpolls had their peak in the Town of Van Etten in mid-March. The last one was in the Town of Romulus on the late date of 4 May. The last reported Hoary Redpoll was in the Town of Ovid 9 March. Red Crossbills peaked at Summerhill State Forest in mid-April and some lingered in the Region through the end of the season. The last White-winged Crossbill was in the Town of Potter on 20 April. The maximum count of Pine Siskins was in early May and some were still in the Region through the end of May.

The only report of Clay-colored Sparrow was from the Town of Danby on the early date of 17 April. Otherwise, arrival dates and maximum counts of sparrow species were normal.

The Region's only Yellow-breasted Chat appeared at MNWR on 19 May and continued through the end of the season. Arrival dates for icterids were normal. Observers reported high counts for Baltimore Oriole at Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve and, surprisingly, for Rusty Blackbird at MNWR.

Early arriving warblers were a Northern Waterthrush on 19 April, a Prothonotary Warbler at MNWR on 3 May, a Hooded Warbler in the Town of Van Etten on 28 April, and a Yellow-rumped Warbler on 14 March. A high count of nine Mourning Warblers came from the Town of Avoca. The Town of Jerusalem produced a high count of 11 Hooded Warblers. An Orange-crowned Warbler was at the Durland Preserve on the late date of 23 May. Golden-winged Warblers appeared at seven different sites, one in Chemung County and six in Tompkins County. A Yellow-throated Warbler was in the Town of Caroline 29 April through 2 May.

Lastly, 34 Northern Cardinals at Kendal at Ithaca was a high count.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AF – Arnot Forest; **BL** – Beebe L, TOMP; **BLNA** – Bluegrass Lane Natural Area, TOMP; **CanL** – Canandaigua L, ONTA; **CLSP** – Cayuga L SP; **CygL** – Cayuga L; **DSF** – Danby State Forest, TOMP; **GCC** – Geneva Country Club, ONTA; **HH** – Hog Hole, TOMP; **HO** – Hawthorn Orchard, TOMP; **IR** – Ithaca Res, TOMP; **LPBP** – Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Pres, TOMP; **LPSP** – Long Pt SP; **MNWR** – Montezuma NWR; **MtP** – Mt Pleasant, TOMP; **MyPt** – Myers Pt, TOMP; **OP** – Ontario Pathways, ONTA; **QCM** – Queen Catharine Marsh, SCHU; **RRRP** – Ridgeway Road Rail Trail, TOMP; **SenL** – Seneca L; **SLSP** – Seneca L SP; **SPNA** – Salt Pt Natural Area, TOMP; **StP** – Stewart P, TOMP; **SW** – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; **TCar** – T Caroline, TOMP; **TDry** – T Dryden, TOMP; **TFay** – T Fayette, SENE; **Tlth** – T Ithaca, TOMP; **TJer** – T Jerusalem, YATE; **TMor** – T Moravia, CAYU; **TOv** – T Ovid, SENE; **TPot** – T Potter, YATE; **TRom** – T Romulus, SENE; **TTyr** – T Tyre, SENE; **TVE** – T Van Etten, CHEM.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Ross's Goose: arr Tlth 9 Mar; last CygL SENE 22 Mar.

Greater White-fronted Goose: T Geneva SENE 13 Mar (TLe, rec).

Brant: arr LPBP 16 May (mob, ph); max 31 MNWR 16 May (MMi, ph, early); last 5 MNWR 20 May; T Throop CAYU 20 May.

Cackling Goose: max 36 SLSP 7 Mar; last BL 22 Mar, early.

Barnacle x Cackling Goose (hybrid): SLSP 9 Mar (BCI, ph); SLSP 19 Mar (TLe, ph).

Snow x Canada Goose (hybrid): SLSP 7-9 Mar (mob, ph); CygL SENE 7 Mar (JM, ph); Ecology House TOMP 9 Mar (THE!).

Mute Swan: max 30 CygL SENE 7 Mar (JM, SO), high; last MNWR 23 May (FM), late..

Trumpeter Swan: max 20 MNWR 20 Mar (RCo, JP), high.

Tundra Swan: max 1000 Cyg L SENE 10 Mar; last TDry 20 Mar, early.

Wood Duck: max 100 QCM 16 Mar (BCa, DD), high.

Blue-winged Teal: arr 8 MNWR 23 Mar; max 100 MNWR 11-24 Apr. **TJer**

Eurasian Wigeon: arr East Shore P TOMP 5 Mar; max 2 Seneca Trail SENE 15 Mar; last 2 MNWR 23 Apr.

Green-winged Teal: arr 4 SPNA 7 Mar; max 950 MNWR 8 May.

Canvasback: max 20,000 CLSP 20 Mar (SB, BWal!), high; last 2 MNWR 24 Apr.

Redhead: max 60,000 CLSP 21 Mar (JM!), high.

Redhead x Ring-necked Duck (hybrid): MNWR 5 May (TLe!).

TUFTED DUCK: CanL 3-20 Mar (mob, ph).

Greater Scaup: max 4000 CLSP 21 Mar (JM!), high; last 3 MNWR 13 May.

Lesser Scaup: max 8000 CLSP 21 Mar (JM!), high; last 4 MNWR 30 May.

Redhead x Scaup (sp.) (hybrid): Hi Tor WMA YATE 6 Mar (JM, LiS, ph).

Ring-necked Duck x Scaup (sp.) (hybrid): StP 27 Mar (THE, DaH!).

Surf Scoter: arr CanL 8 Apr; max 6 GCC 19 Apr; last 2 Aurua High Banks CAYU 8 May; 2 MyPt 8 May.

White-winged Scoter: arr MyPt 3 Mar; max 100 MyPt 8 May (mob), high; last 2 MyPt 20 May.

Black Scoter: arr Waterloo Treatment Plant SENE 13 Apr; max 2 SenL SENE 14 Apr; last Waterloo Treatment Plant SENE 20 May; SenL SENE 20 May.
Long-tailed Duck: max 135 SenL SENE 13 Apr; last 4 SenL SENE 20 May.
Common Goldeneye: max 200 SLSP 7 Mar; last 2 SLSP 16 May.
Pied-billed Grebe: arr 2 MNWR 13 Mar; max 33 MNWR 13 Apr.
Horned Grebe: arr 3 Lake Road Bluff CAYU 8 Mar; max 20 Aurora Bay Boathouse CAYU 20 Mar; SenL SENE 19 Apr.
Red-necked Grebe: max 6 SenL SENE 19 Apr; last 5 SenL SENE 17 May.
Mourning Dove: max 50 TVE 4 Mar (JCorc), high.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr TMor 8 May; max 5 TVE 24 May.
Black-billed Cuckoo: arr HO 4 May; max 7 MNWR 20 May.
Common Nighthawk: arr Monkey Run TOMP 17 May; max 22 BLNA 20 May (BWall), high.
Eastern Whip-poor-will: arr TVE 28 Apr (JCorc, MPe, rec); T Erwin STEU 28 Apr (AK), early.
Chimney Swift: arr 2 StP 17 Apr; max 150 One Franklin Square ONTA 30 Apr.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Ithaca 30 Apr; max 5 MNWR 21 May.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Virginia Rail: arr Hile School Road Wetland TOMP 10 Apr; max 6 QCM 1 May.
Sora: arr Hile School Road Wetland TOMP 11 Apr; max 3 T Lansing TOMP 8 May (JM, TSa); Etna Fringed Gentian Area TOMP 8 May (JM, TSa); 3 MNWR 16 May (SB, JM), high.
Common Gallinule: arr MNWR 11 Apr; max 12 MNWR 9 May.
Sandhill Crane: arr 3 QCM 7 Mar; max 21 MNWR 19 Mar (DK), high.
Black-bellied Plover: arr 3 MNWR 11 May; max 21 MyPt 25 May.
Semipalmated Plover: arr 2 MNWR 9 May; max 180 MNWR 16 May.
Upland Sandpiper: arr Lott Farm SENE 18 Apr.
Whimbrel: arr 4 TVE 21 May, nocturnal; max 45 MyPt 25 May (PH, The), high; last 3 City Pier 26 May; SenL SENE 26 May.
Ruddy Turnstone: arr 2 MNWR 21 May; max 17 Geneva Lakefront P ONTA 26 May.
Red Knot: arr & max 3 MNWR 29 May, late.

RUFF: MNWR 22 May (mob, ph).
Sanderling: arr StP 22 Mar (LeSa, ph, LSu, SSu).
Dunlin: arr 2 MNWR 10 Apr; max 250 MNWR 22 May.
Least Sandpiper: arr MNWR 29 Apr; max 3700 MNWR 16 May (TLe!), high.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr 2 MNWR 8 May; max 5 MNWR 28 May.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr MNWR Apr 9; max 19 MNWR 13 Apr.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr MNWR 11 May; max 175 MNWR 28 May.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 2 MNWR 13 May; max 25 TVE 21 May, nocturnal; last 20 MNWR 29 May.
Long-billed Dowitcher: MNWR 12 May (JM!).
American Woodcock: arr 2 TRom 9 Mar; T Canandaigua ONTA 9 Mar; max 18 Dryden Rail Trail TOMP 20 Mar; 18 T Veteran CHEM 27 Apr.
Wilson's Snipe: TDry 20 Mar; max 30 MNWR 26 Apr.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr Canvasback Camp SENE 14 Apr; max 10 MNWR 12 May.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr 2 MNWR 23 Apr; max 15 TTyr 2 May; 15 Goetchicus Wetland Pres TOMP 8 May.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 10 MNWR 10 Apr; max 1200 MNWR 12 May (JM!), high.
Willet: arr & max 9 SenL YATE 2 May.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr 3 MNWR 28 Mar; max 400 MNWR 12 May (JM!), high.
Wilson's Phalarope: arr MNWR 12 May; max 6 MNWR 24 May (GD!), high.
Black-legged Kittiwake: SenL Camp SENE 13 Apr (TLe!).
Bonaparte's Gull: arr CanL 3 Mar (MBR, ph, FKD, ph), early; max 260 LPSP 8 May.
Little Gull: arr CanL 8 Apr; last LPSP 8 May.
Laughing Gull: SenL SENE 26 May (BCa, KyG, ph).
Franklin's Gull: MyPt 19 Apr (JM, ph).
Iceland Gull: last 2 Lighthouse Pt Natural Area TOMP 3 Mar.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 12 StP 14 Mar.
Glaucous Gull: CygL SENE 7 Mar; StP 12 Mar.
Caspian Tern: arr 2 MNWR 8 Apr; max 46 MNWR 23 Apr.
Black Tern: arr 26 MNWR 3 May; max 80 MNWR 14 May.
Common Tern: arr 42 SenL SENE 21 Apr; max 85 LPSP 8 May (JM!, TSa), high.

Forster's Tern: arr MyPt 2 May; max 3 LPSP 8 May; last LPSP 20 May.

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: max 4 GCC 19 Apr; last Atwater Meadows P ONTA 12 May.

American Bittern: arr MNWR 11 Apr; max 4 TVE 27 Apr (JCorc, MPe), nocturnal, high..

Least Bittern: arr Sperr Memorial P CHEM 8 May; Van Etten Wildlife Sanctuary CHEM 8 May; max 2 QCM 22 May.

Great Blue Heron: max 202 MNWR 9 May (EMul, ph), high.

Great Egret: arr Sunset P TOMP 6 Apr; max 24 MNWR 20 May.

Green Heron: arr IR 13 Apr; max 9 Ecology House TOMP 5 May, nocturnal.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr MNWR 11 Apr; max 47 MNWR 14 May (TLe!, RSt, AdT), high.

Glossy Ibis: arr 3 MNWR 10 Apr (RSi, ph), early; max 3 MNWR 10 Apr–6 May.

WHITE-FACED IBIS: MNWR 15 May (mob, ph).

Osprey: arr MNWR 20 Mar; max 13 MNWR 31 May.

Golden Eagle: max 4 BLNA 10 Mar; 4 MtP 10 Mar; last T Ulysses TOMP 3 Apr, early.

Bald Eagle: max 77 MNWR 18 May (TLe!), high.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr T Canandaigua ONTA 8 Apr; max 19 BLNA 19 Apr; 19 BL 27 Apr.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 2 MNWR 2 Apr; last MNWR 26 Apr.

Snowy Owl: max 2 Finger Lakes Regional Airport SENE 14 Mar; last Finger Lakes Regional Airport SENE 17 Mar.

Short-eared Owl: max 2 T Phelps ONTA 29 Mar; 2 TOv 25 Mar; last MNWR 12 Apr.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Tlth 15 Mar (JGK).

Belted Kingfisher: max 9 StP 7 May (JAb), high.

Red-headed Woodpecker: arr Mulholland Wildflower Pres TOMP 19 Apr; max 2 TPot 14–27 May.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 12 SW 3 May (WvH), high.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr 2 LPBP 27 Mar.

Peregrine Falcon: max 6 Taughannock Falls SP 16 May (SB, JM!), high.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr Dryden Rail Trail 30 Apr; max 7 SW 21 May.

Eastern Kingbird: arr Dryden L TOMP 24 Apr; max 8 SW 21 May; 8 QCM 10 May; 8 Canandaigua L YATE 31 May.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Breesport P CHEM 6 May (AC!), early.last TVE 24 May; Tlth 24 May.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: arr HH 8 May; DSF 8 May; max 10 LPBP 31 May.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr IR 21 May; max 2 HO 23 May.

Acadian Flycatcher: arr Hi Tor WMA YATE 20 May; max 4 Cayuta Creek SCHU 27 May.

Alder Flycatcher: arr T Hector SCHU 16 May; TCar 16 May; TDry 16 May; max 11 SW 27 May.

Willow Flycatcher: arr MNWR 14 May; max 9 MNWR 22 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr Keuka L Outlet Trail YATE 27 Apr; max 6 T Wheeler STEU 22 May.

Eastern Phoebe: arr Palmer Woods TOMP 11 Mar; max 9 T Venice CAYU 8 Apr.

Northern Shrike: last Steam Mill Fen TOMP 4 Apr.

Yellow-throated Vireo: arr TVE 29 Apr; max 9 Kashong Conservation Area ONTA 9 May.

Blue-headed Vireo: arr TVE 10 Apr; Texas Hollow State Forest SCHU 10 Apr; SW 10 Apr; TDry 10 Apr; max 8 Robert Treman SP 13 May.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr TTyr 7 May; max 2 Robert Treman SP 15 May.

Warbling Vireo: arr T Venice CAYU 27 Apr; Cayuga Heights 27 Apr; max 15 SPNA 7 May.

Red-eyed Vireo: arr MNWR 3 May; Goetchicus Wetland Pres TOMP 3 May; max 46 DSF 17 May.

American Crow: max 5000 StP 10 Mar (JM), high.

Purple Martin: arr 6 MNWR 5 Apr; max 50 MNWR 3–24 May.

Tree Swallow: arr 5 LPSP 11 Mar; 3 MNWR 11 Mar; 3 T Seneca Falls SENE 11 Mar; max 1246 MNWR 11 Apr.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: arr 2 Cornell Research Ponds TOMP 30 Mar; max 55 Horseheads Marsh CHEM 8 May (JCorc, MPe), high.

Bank Swallow: arr MNWR 11 Apr; max 80 SenL SENE 8 May; 80 MyPt 8 May.

Cliff Swallow: arr MNWR 31 Mar (GD!), early; max 10 T Erwin STEU 11 May; 10 Grove Street Fishing Access CHEM 30 May
Barn Swallow: arr StP 1 Apr; max 1200 Lake Road Bluff CAYU 8 May (JM!, TSa), high.
House Wren: arr Ithaca 13 Apr; max 10 HO 9 May.
Winter Wren: arr TDry 23 Mar; max 6 AF 24 May.
Sedge Wren: T Starkey YATE 2 May (KR, rec); TCar 4 May (HAD, THo!).
Marsh Wren: arr MNWR 11 Apr; max 27 MNWR 31 May.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr GCC 22 Apr; max 5 Frontenac Pt SENE 6 May.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Ithaca 6 Mar (Dave Nutter!), early; max 25 RRRT 20 Apr.
Eastern Bluebird: max 20 Tlth 25 Mar (PH), high.
Veery: arr BL 1 May; max 17 DSF 22 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: arr TVE 20 May; BL 20 May; max 5 BL 24 May; 5 TVE 26 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr TMor 7 May; Tlth 7 May; max 62 TVE 20 May, nocturnal.
Hermit Thrush: arr TDry 1 Apr; TCar 1 Apr; max 7 Gleason Meadows CHEM 24 Apr.
Wood Thrush: arr Summerhill State Forest CAYU 28 Apr; T Veteran CHEM 28 Apr; max 10 IR 21 May.
Gray Catbird: arr T Erin CHEM 15 Apr; max 25 Dryden L TOMP 9 May; 25 RRRT 16 May.
Brown Thrasher: arr T Elmira CHEM 1 Apr (Anita Seaberg!), early; max 6 Catharine Valley Trail SCHU 25 Apr.
Cedar Waxwing: max 42 Tlth 18 May, low.
House Sparrow: max 50 StP 15 Mar (THe, SO), high.
American Pipit: arr BLNA 9 Mar; max 250 T Benton YATE 18 Apr. last Tlth 21 May.
Evening Grosbeak: max 84 TVE 8 May.
Purple Finch: max 42 T Erin CHEM 8 May (WBI), high.
Common Redpoll: max 250 TVE 18 Mar; last TRom 4 May (MiPa!), late.
Hoary Redpoll: max 2 TPot 6 Mar; last TOv 9 Mar.
Red Crossbill: max 20 Summerhill State Forest CAYU 14 Apr.
White-winged Crossbill: max 5 Cornell University 1 Mar; last TPot 20 Apr.
Pine Siskin: max 36 TDry 9 May.
Lapland Longspur: arr 35 TFay 10 Apr; last TFay 22 Apr.
Snow Bunting: max 400 Savannah Mucklands SENE 8 Mar; last T Seneca ONTA 2 Apr.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: arr TMor 17 Mar; max 16 TJer 15 May.
American Tree Sparrow: max 27 MNWR 20 Mar; last Geneva 25 Apr; QCM 25 Apr.
Chipping Sparrow: arr Richard Outhouse Memorial P ONTA 13 Mar; max 22 Cornell University 16-22 Apr; BL 20 Apr.
Clay-colored Sparrow: T Danby TOMP 17 Apr (mob!), early.
Field Sparrow: arr TOv 4 Mar; max 17 Sampson SP 24 Apr.
Vesper Sparrow: arr TDry 28 Mar; max 5 BLNA 7 Apr; 5 TFay 14 Apr.
Savannah Sparrow: arr 2 MNWR 25 Mar; max 24 T Seneca Falls SENE 20 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr TOv 2 May; max 4 TOv 5 May.
Fox Sparrow: arr Ithaca 11 Mar; TCar 11 Mar; 2 Palmer Woods TOMP 11 Mar; 2 Tlth 11 Mar; max 17 TCar 3 Apr; last OP 4 May.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr HO 2 May; SW 2 May; Finger Lakes National Forest SCHU 2 May; max 2 QCM 8 May; 2 LPBP 8 May; last MNWR 22 May; T Wheeler STEU 22 May.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr 3 TPot 18 Apr; max 20 Sperr Memorial P CHEM 8 May; last AF TOMP 22 May.
Yellow-breasted Chat: MNWR 19 May thru (mob, ph).
Yellow-headed Blackbird: TTyr 9 Mar (DK, ph).
Bobolink: arr QCM 25 Apr; max 40 T Ledyard CAYU 7 May.
Eastern Meadowlark: arr 3 Watkins Glen 9 Mar; TCar 9 Mar; max 13 TDry 20 Mar.
Orchard Oriole: arr MyPt 30 Apr; max 5 Ithaca Farmers Market TOMP 3 May; 5 SPNA 7-14 May.
Baltimore Oriole: arr T Newfield TOMP 27 Apr; max 40 LPBP 10 May (LeD, PH), high.
Rusty Blackbird: max 300 MNWR 8 May (JM!, TSa), high; last 4 SW 14 May; 2 Ithaca Tompkins Airport TOMP 14 May.
Ovenbird: arr BL 27 Apr; max 26 DSF 17 May.
Worm-eating Warbler: arr & max 2 LPBP 8 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Six Mile Creek Natural Area TOMP 8 Apr; max 5 Bald Hill TOMP 23 Apr.
Northern Waterthrush: arr Mulholland Wildflower Garden TOMP 19 Apr (ED, LeD!), early.

Golden-winged Warbler: arr & max 2 TVE 4 May; last Monkey Run TOMP 14 May.

Blue-winged Warbler: arr TVE 28 Apr; T Catharine SCHU 28 Apr; TCar 28 Apr; max 14 LPBP 10 May.

Golden-winged x Blue-winged Warbler (hybrid): HO 15 May; Etna Fringed Gentian Area TOMP 25 May.

“Brewster’s” Warbler: Newtown Battlefield SP 8 May; Gleason Meadows CHEM 11 May.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr Geneva 25 Apr; max 8 TVE 4 May; 8 LPBP 16 May.

Prothonotary Warbler: arr MNWR 3 May (DK, ph), early; max 2 MNWR 10 May thru.

Tennessee Warbler: arr HH 29 Apr (KP!), early; max 6 TVE 19 May; 6 Black Diamond Trail TOMP 19 May; 6 MNWR 20 May; last TVE 25 May; Tlth 25 May.

Orange-crowned Warbler: arr SW 4 May; max 3 HO 8 May; last Durland Pres TOMP 23 May (JF!, YHS), late.

Nashville Warbler: arr TRom 27 Apr; max 11 HO 8 May.

Mourning Warbler: arr TDry 6 May; max 9 T Avoca STEU 22 May (CW!), high.

Common Yellowthroat: arr 2 TJer 23 Apr; max 20 QCM 8 May.

Hooded Warbler: arr TVE 28 Apr (JCorc, MPe!), early; max 11 TJer 15 May (LyD, NJ, BWi!), high; 11 DSF (JM!), high.

American Redstart: arr Tlth 28 Apr; T Lansing TOMP 28 Apr.

Cape May Warbler: arr Ithaca 2 May; max 6 BL 15 May; last MNWR 23 May.

Cerulean Warbler: arr 2 OP 4 May; max 6 MNWR 20 May.

Northern Parula: arr 2 T Enfield TOMP 28 Apr; max 14 Lake View Cemetery TOMP 5 May; last MNWR 25 May; Sweedler-Lick Brook Pres TOMP 25 May; Edwards Lake Cliffs Pres TOMP 25 May.

Magnolia Warbler: arr 2 Roy H Park Pres TOMP 2 May; Northeast Ithaca 2 May; TCar 2 May; max 6 TVE 18 May; 6 HO 18 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Lake View Cemetery TOMP 5 May; max 12 Shindagin Hollow State Forest TOMP 18 May; last MNWR 30 May.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr Ithaca 30 Apr; max 12 TVE 26 May.

Yellow Warbler: arr HH 20 Apr; max 32 SLSP 11 May; 32 MNWR 15 May.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Birdseye Hollow State Forest STEU 1 May; T Danby TOMP 1 May; max 35 AF TOMP 16-22 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr Ithaca 8 May; max 6 MtP 22 May.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr TCar 28 Apr; TDry 28 Apr; max 16 Shindagin Hollow State Forest TOMP 9 May.

Palm Warbler: arr SW 8 Apr; max 16 StP 8 May; last Kashong Conservation Area ONTA 22 May.

Pine Warbler: arr T Prattsburgh STEU 27 Mar; max 8 RRRT 20 Apr.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Ithaca 14 Mar (Dave Nutter!), early; max 70 TOv 4 May.

Yellow-throated Warbler: TCar 29 Apr-2 May (mob, ph).

Prairie Warbler: arr 2 LPBP 1 May; max 8 LPBP 14-22 May.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Ithaca 24 Apr; max 14 Connecticut Hill WMA SCHU 10 May.

Canada Warbler: arr T Ulysses TOMP 3 May; max 15 AF SCHU 24 May.

Wilson’s Warbler: arr Fall Creek North Natural Area TOMP 2 May.

Scarlet Tanager: arr OP 28 Apr; max 12 MtP 17 May.

Northern Cardinal: max 34 Kendal at Ithaca TOMP 25 Apr (GF), high.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr 2 TDry 20 Apr; max 19 T Summerhill CAYU 8 May.

Indigo Bunting: arr TVE 28 Apr; max 9 AF SCHU 23 May.



REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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Weather data obtained from the Binghamton Station showed a high of 71° F on 25 March and a low of 8° on 2 March. The average temperature for the month of March was 35.8° which was 3.5° above normal. March precipitation was 1.98" which was 1.07" below normal. The high temperature for the month of April was 77° on 28 April and the low was 17° on 2 April. The average temperature for the month of April was 45.3°, 0.7° above normal. April precipitation was 4.86" which was 1.23" above normal. The high temperature for the month of May was 86° on 21 May and the low was 30° on 1 May. The average temperature for the month of May was 55.1° which was 1.1° below normal. May precipitation was 5.29", 1.51" above normal.

The Region, once again, was well represented as far as waterfowl species were concerned. There were multiple records of a thousand plus Snow Geese migrating through. A Cackling Goose was reported during the period, as were all three species of swan. This included two Trumpeter Swans in Broome County. The expected duck species such as Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal and Ring-necked Duck were reported in good numbers. There were scattered reports throughout the Region of "sea ducks" such as White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoter, Long-tailed Duck and Red-breasted Merganser.

There were two reports of Eastern Whip-poor-will in the Region. Any reports of this declining species are notable. Virginia Rail is a species that seems to slowly be increasing in the Region and was reported in five of the six counties. Both Sora, Common Gallinule and American Coot were reported multiple times as well. In addition to the expected shorebird species, Black-bellied Plover, Dunlin, and Short-billed Dowitcher were reported.

The tern species reported included Caspian, Black, Common, and Forster's Tern. There were multiple reports of both bittern species. There was only one report of Northern Goshawk in the entire Region for the period. This report was from Otsego County. While never common, this species has been exceedingly hard for the author to find over the past decade. In my experience in Delaware County there are many areas that seem to provide good habitat, as well as a good population of squirrels and Ruffed Grouse for this species to prey upon. Hopefully this species can increase its population in the Region.

It was a good finch year as far as species diversity was concerned. Evening Grosbeaks were reported throughout the entire Region, as were Purple Finch. Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins were mostly reported in small numbers, also throughout the entire Region, as were Red Crossbills which were reported in all six counties. A single report of a Hoary Redpoll was an excellent find by Sandy

Covington on 9 March and 13 March. Very good pictures of the bird can be seen in her eBird report.

There were some excellent rare sightings in the Region this period. A Little Gull was found at Dorchester Park in Broome County on 5 May and was seen by many lucky observers. For the second consecutive spring a Snowy Egret was reported. It was found and photographed by Derek Green at Lockheed Martin Pond in Tioga County on 21 April. Pete Fenner found and recorded a **Western Meadowlark** in Springfield Center in Otsego County on 28 April. An immature male Summer Tanager was discovered by David Tanner and photographed by Jay McGowan in Cortland on 10 May.

The bird of the period, however, was an adult male **Painted Bunting** reported to Rick Bunting (no relation to the Painting Bunting) that was at a private feeder station in Bainbridge in Chenango County. The owner did get pictures of the bird which are included in the eBird report.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

ALk – Allen L, OTSE; **AqPk** – Aquaterra P, BROO; **BCBC** – Binghamton CBC, BROO; **BMF** – Birdsong Meadow Farm, Candor, TIOG; **BPd** – Boland Pd, BROO; **BUNP** – Binghamton University Nature Pres, BROO; **CaHo** – Cannon Hole, T Barton, TIOG; **CanL** – Canadarago L, OTSE; **CannR** – Cannonsville Res, DELA; **CG** – Carantouan Greenway, T Barton, TIOG; **ChenL** – Chenango L, T New Berlin, CHEN; **ChRB** – Chenango Ri, Greater Binghamton, BROO; **CoPk** – Confluence P, Owego, TIOG; **CRes** – Cannonsville Res & outflow, DELA; **CVSP** – Chenango Valley SP, T Fenton, BROO; **DeIR** – Delaware Ri, Deposit, DELA; **DorP** – Dorchester P, Whitney Pt, BROO; **FMHW** – Franklin Mt. Hawkwatch, DELA; **FMt** – Franklin Mtn, T Davenport, DELA; **GrwP** –

Greenwood CP, BROO; **HCP** – Hillcrest Pits, Port Dickenson, BROO; **LHNC** – Lime Hollow Nature Center, T Cortlandville, CORT; **LPSF** – Long Pd State Forest, CHEN; **MHL** – Michigan Hollow L, TIOG; **NSpM** – N Spencer Marsh, T Spencer, TIOG; **OnCBC** – Oneonta CBC, OTSE/DELA; **OtsL** – Otsego L, OTSE; **OwCBC** – Owego CBC, TIOG; **Pres** – Pepacton Res & outflow, DELA; **SCBC** – Sherburne CBC, CHEN (mostly); **SkaL** – Skaneateles L, CORT; **StPd** – Stupke Pd, T Cortlandville, CORT; **SusRB** – Susquehanna Ri, Greater Binghamton, BROO; **UL** – Upper Lisle, BROO, **ULCP** – Upper Lisle CP, T Triangle, BROO; **WPres** – Whitney Pt Res, BROO.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 5,000 ULCP 10 Mar (DN); 1,000 Binghamton BROO 14 Mar (AS,CT); 2,000 Binghamton 14 Mar (GW); 4,000 BMF 20 Mar (ATro).

Ross's Goose: flyover BMF 20 Mar (ATro).

Cackling Goose: 5 flyovers BMF 5 Mar (ATro); Brick Pd. Wetland Pres TIOG 17 Mar (WB).

Mute Swan: Oneida Street Ponds OTSE 9 May (BW).

Trumpeter Swan: Chenango Forks BROO 3 Apr (mob); site max 2 E. Hill Rd. 26-28 May.

Tundra Swan: MHL 30 Mar - 15 Apr (mob).

Wood Duck: 40 HCP 20 Mar (RA,MMc); 21 Deposit DELA 10 May (LVe).

Blue-winged Teal: site max 5 Murphys Pits BROO 19 Apr; site max 9 Brick Pd Wetland Pres 30 Apr (JR); site max 6 ULCP 30 Apr (DN,SO).

Northern Shoveler: site max 4 Bpd 4 Apr (JW); site max 7 UCLP 19 Apr (DN); 7 Cortland Gravel Pits CORT 21 Apr (JMc).

Gadwall: 9 CRes 12 Mar (LVe); site max 8 ULCP 28 Mar (VL); site max 12 Lisle P BROO 8 May (RA,MMc).

American Wigeon: 7 Clinton P CHEN 9 Mar (MDe); max site 8 ULCP 14 Mar (JH,DN); max site 15 Bpd 21 Mar (RA).

American Black Duck: 30 Bpd 5 Mar (DN,LVi); 42 Barton TIOG 8 Mar (MB); 34 PRes 12 Mar (LVe).

Northern Pintail: 10 PRes 27 Mar (LVe); site max 10 ULCP 30 Mar (DN).

Green-winged Teal: site max 22 Bpd 16 Mar (VL); site max 15 ULCP 21 Mar (JH); site max 31 30 Mar (DG); 16 Willet Line Rd CHEN 23 Apr (MDe,ATa).

Canvasback: site max 3 Chugnut River Walk BROO 6 Mar (MSt).

Redhead: site max 5 Chugnut River Walk 7 Mar (DN); site max 21 HCP 11 Mar (LVi); 2 ULCP 30 Mar (DN).

Ring-necked Duck: site max 120 Downsville DELA 14 Mar (MSc); site max 46 StPd 23 Mar (DG); site max 67 27 Mar (JMc).

Greater Scaup: small numbers (2 max) of scattered reports throughout Region.

Lesser Scaup: reported in all counties in Region.

Surf Scoter: 2 CannRes 25 Apr (LV); 2 Cortland Gravel Pits 5 May (JMc); 2 Murphys Pits 6 May (mob); Lisle P 8 May (mob).

White-winged Scoter: 6 CannRes 1 May (LVe); 16 UCLP 5 May (JMc); 24 ChenL 8 May (MDe); site max 400 Lisle P 8 May (DN,JH).

Long-tailed Duck: Region max 18 Lisle P 7 Apr (DN,DW); other scattered reports throughout Region.

Bufflehead: site max 100 Lisle P 21 Apr (DN); site max 92 Cortland Gravel Pits 21 Apr (JMc); 30 Fly Creek OTSE 3 May (TB).

Common Goldeneye: Region max 20 Downsville 7 Mar (LV); 9 Owego TIOG 11 Mar (DG).

Hooded Merganser: many reports throughout Region.

Common Merganser: many reports throughout Region.

Red-breasted Merganser: region max 13 Lisle P 26 Mar (DN).

Ruddy Duck: site max 6 Lisle P 5 May (DN,GW,ATri); 3 Murphys Pits 8 May (VL); site max 6 Lockheed Martin Pd TIOG 10 May - 12 May (DG,WB).

Ring-necked Pheasant: scattered reports in all counties in Region, almost all single birds.

Ruffed Grouse: many reports throughout entire Region.

Wild Turkey: many reports throughout entire Region.

Pied-billed Grebe: site max 8 ULCP 3 Apr (JC).

Horned Grebe: 3 Plymouth Res CHEN 11 Apr (CM); 7 ULCP 13 Apr (DW); site max 8 Cortland Gravel Pits 21 Apr (JMc).
Red-necked Grebe: CannR 17 Apr (LV); Murphys Pits 19 Apr (Dn,GW,DW); Millbrook Town Pk CHEN 21 Apr (MDe); site max 4 Lisle P 8 May (DN,RA).
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 2 ULCP 23 May (VL,DN); 2 LHNC 25 May & 29 May (BM,EL); 2 CG 25 May & 26 May (MB,DG); 2 Cortland CE CORT 26 May (CW).
Black-billed Cuckoo: scattered reports throughout entire Region.
Common Nighthawk: 21 BMF 21 May (ATro); 10 Owego TIOG 25 May (KH); 4 Ball Flats P CHEN 27 May (MDe); 3 Greene CE 31 May (ATri).
Eastern Whip-poor-will: Goey Pd Rd OTSE 5 May (ML); Newark Valley TIOG 8 May (SD).

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Virginia Rail: site max 5 Sherburne Marsh CHEN 13 Apr (MDe); site max 2 CG 13 Apr (NH); 2 Richfield Springs OTSE 27 Apr (CSt); 2 Tully CORT 15 May (SD).
Sora: Homer CORT 6 May (JJ); Daisy Hollow Rd CORT 6 May (JMc); Sherburne Marsh 8 May (MDe); BPd 8 May (DN,RA,MMc); Waverly 9 May (DG).
Common Gallinule: site max 3 Sherburne Marsh 8 May (MDe); Brick Pd Wetland Pres 8 May (DG); BPd 10-14 May (SD,JH,DW,RA,GW).
American Coot: 38 Lk Front P OTSE 19 Mar (HH); 16 Cooperstown OTSE 24 Mar (LP).
Sandhill Crane: Portlandville OTSE 8 May (LP); Sherburne Marsh 13 May (MDe); site max 3 Round Pd CHEN 24 May (MDe).
Black-bellied Plover: Tully L CORT 15 May (CW); Dorchester P BROO 28 May (VL,GW,DW,RAMMc).
Semipalmated Plover: 3 Deposit 10 May (LV); site max 2 Murphys Pits 24 May (VL); site max 8 Otselic River Overlook BROO 24 May (DN); 2 Greene CHEN 26 May (MDe).
Dunlin: Cheri A. Lindsey P BROO 10 Apr (RA,MMc); Baton Pavillion TIOGA 28 Apr (DG); 2 Dorchester P 26 May (ATri).
Least Sandpiper: site max 35 ULCP 14 May (JH); 6 Deposit 23 May (LV); 12 Murphys Pits 24 May (VL).
Pectoral Sandpiper: Otselic River Overlook 9 Apr (GW); ULCP 9 Apr - 11 Apr (DN,JH,RA,VL); ULCP 30 Apr (SO); Sherburne Marsh 14 May (MDe).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Dorchester P 25 May (DN); site max 3 Murphys Pits 25 May (DN); Harford CORT 26 May (JMc).

Short-billed Dowitcher: ULCP/Otselic River Overlook 21 May (GW,DW,VL,RDe,DN,RA,MMc).

Wilson's Snipe: many reports throughout all counties in Region.

Lesser Yellowlegs: Region max 12 Deposit 10 May (LV); scattered reports throughout most of Region.

Greater Yellowlegs: Region max 7 Deposit 10 May (LV); reported in all counties in Region.

Bonaparte's Gull: site max 67 Lisle P 7 Apr (DN); 37 CannR 10 Apr (LV); reported in all counties in Region.

Little Gull: Dorchester P 5 May (DN,DW,ATri,GW,JH,JMc,JC,LC).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2 UCLP 21 Mar (DN); Cortland Gravel Pits 1 Apr (JC); 2 Cortland Gravel Pits 6 Apr (JMc).

Caspian Tern: Region max 14 Dorchester P 21 Apr (DW); 5 Lisle P 21 Apr (GW,JH,DN); 8 MHL 21 Apr (SC); 3 Plymouth Res 27 Apr (CM).

Black Tern: Dorchester P 5 May (DN,JMc,DW,JC,LC); Glimmerglass SP OTSE 6 May (PFe); Norwich CHEN 8 May (MDe); ULCP 13 May (GW,AS,BF).

Common Tern: 8 MHL 21 Apr (SC); 7 Chenango L CHEN 8 May (MDe); reports also in DELW and BROO counties.

Forster's Tern: Goodale L CORT 29 Apr (JC,LC).

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: 2 Long Pd CHEN 24 Apr (MDe); 1 Lisle P 21 Apr (JH,DN,GW,SR,RDe); 3 CannR 24 Apr (LV); Murphy Pits 14 May (DW).

Common Loon: 28 PRes 21 Apr (LV); 16 Genegantslet L CHEN 21 Apr (MDe); 145 Lisle P 21 Apr (SR,RDe,DN,JH).

Double-crested Cormorant: site max 31 Cannon Hole TIOG 10 Apr (MB); 45 Owego 18 Apr (KH); site max 200 Lisle P 20 Apr (DN); 53 Cincinnatus L CHEN 21 Apr (MDe); 36 Cortland Gravel Pits 21 Apr (JMc).

American Bittern: 2 Sherburne Marsh 25 Apr (MMe); Moran Rd CHEN 1 May (MDe); Daisy Hollow Rd 6 May (JMc,JC,LC); 2 Lk Delaware Pd DELA 8 May (RP).

Least Bittern: ULCP 7 May (VL,RA); BPd 9 May (VL,GW,DN,JW,RDe); Ely Rd CORT 26 May (CW).

**PHOTO GALLERY
SPRING 2021**



Gray-breasted Martin, Prospect Park, *Kings*, 1-4 Apr 2021. Top: 2 Apr, © Doug Gochfeld; bottom: 1 Apr, © Timothy Healy.



Tundra Bean Goose, *Saratoga*, 14 & 16 Mar 2021. Top: Saratoga Lake Marine Park, 14 Mar, © Jim de Waal Malefyt; bottom: Fish Creek Marina, 16 Mar, © Glenn Wilson.



Wood Stork, Beaverdam Creek, *Suffolk*, 8 May © Gail Benson/Thomas W. Burke.



Black-throated Gray Warbler, Amherst State Park, *Erie*, 22 Apr 2021, © Tony Dvorak.



Figure 1. Bank Swallows at Breezy Point Tip, *Queens*, New York, 2016 – 2018. Photos clockwise from top left: (a) 7 Jun 2016 and (b) 12 Jun 2017 taken by Scott Solberg, (c) 14 Jun 2018 and (d) 18 Jun 2018 by José R. Ramírez-Garofalo. See pp. 210-215.

Great Blue Heron: many reports throughout entire Region.

Great Egret: Region max 3 Lockheed Martin Pd 21 Apr (DG); scattered reports in DELA, CHEN, BROO, CORT, and TIOG counties.

Snowy Egret: Lockheed Martin Pd 21 Apr (DG).

Green Heron: many reports throughout Region.

Black Vulture: 10 Vestal BROO 27 Mar (RA); 2 BMF 28 Mar (ATro); 9 Vestal 29 Mar (RM); 4 Hancock DELA 25 Apr (LV).

Osprey: many reports throughout entire Region.

Golden Eagle: 2 flyovers BMF 5 Mar (ATro).

Northern Harrier: many reports throughout entire Region.

Northern Goshawk: Betty & Wilbur Davis SP OTSE 10 Mar (JBa).

Red-shouldered Hawk: scattered reports in all counties in Region.

Rough-legged Hawk: Region max 3 Plymouth CHEN 3 Mar (MDe); other scattered records throughout most of Region.

Eastern Screech-Owl: 2 Binghamton 11 May (JBU); 2 Upton OTSE 25 May (MY); 3 Sherburne 26 May (FvM).

Great Horned Owl: scattered reports in BROO, CORT, DELA, OTSE & TIOG counties.

Barred Owl: many reports in all counties in Region.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: Maryland OTSE 9 Apr (CSc, SBri).

Red-headed Woodpecker: Richford TIOG 31 May (DMc).

American Kestrel: many reports throughout entire Region.

Merlin: scattered reports in all counties in Region.

Peregrine Falcon: reported in small numbers in CORT, BROO & TIOG counties.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: Ely Rd CORT 26 May (JMc); Lash Rd CORT 26 May (CW); Chenango Ri, Greene CHEN 27 May (MDe); Richford TIOG 31 May (DMc).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Griggs Gulf SF CORT (CW); Lime Hollow CORT 26 May (JMc); Harford 29 May (JC).

Acadian Flycatcher: Griggs Gulf SF 27 May (JC, JK).

Northern Shrike: Hoag-Childes Rd CHEN 3 Mar (MDe); Vestal 1 Mar (RA).

Philadelphia Vireo: Castle Creek BROO 21 May (DW); Castle Gardens BROO 21 May (MJ); Bovina Ctr DELA 23 May (RP); Kellogg Rd CORT 26 May (CW); Shafer Rd CHEN 31 May (MDe).

Fish Crow: many reports along the Chenango Ri and Susquehanna Ri in BROO and TIOG counties. A few scattered reports in CORT and CHEN counties.

Common Raven: many reports throughout entire Region.

Horned Lark: 60 Flat Iron Rd CHEN 5 Mar (MDe); 100 Smith Hill Rd BROO 6 Mar (DN, MJ); 34 Delancey DELA 7 Mar (LV); 50 Tri-City Airport BROO 8 Mar (GW); 50 Cherry Hill Rd BROO 10 Mar (DW).

Purple Martin: 6 Bainbridge CHEN 8 May (BO); Ely Rd 26 May (JMc).

Bank Swallow: Region max 50 Sherburne Marsh 23 May (MDe); other scattered records throughout entire Region.

Marsh Wren: ULCP 6-10 May (DN, JW, GW); site max 3 Sherburne March 23 May (MDe).

Gray-cheeked Thrush: Owego Hill Rd CORT 27 May (JC, JK).

Swainson's Thrush: Lime Hollow 17-18 May (DG, OB); Marathon CORT 18 May (CW); BUNP 20 May (VL); Coventry SF CHEN 21 May (MDe); Johnson City BROO 25 May (DN).

Northern Mockingbird: scattered reports in BROO, CORT, DELA, OTSE and TIOG counties.

American Pipit: Region max 37 Dorchester Pk 1 Apr (DW); 30 Moran Rd CHEN 10 May (MDe).

Evening Grosbeak: 33 Stoller Hill Rd OTSE 1 Mar (SS); Region max 60 S. Otselic CHEN 29 Apr (MF); a nice scattering of records throughout the entire Region.

Purple Finch: many reports throughout the entire Region.

Common Redpoll: 80 Scott CORT 8 Mar (PH); 42 Stroller Hill Rd 17 Mar (SS); 30 Otsiningo P BROO 19 Mar (WK); other scattered reports throughout the Region.

Hoary Redpoll: MHL 9 & 13 Mar (SC); Blodgett Rd, Owego TIOG, cont from winter to 2 Mar (ATro).

Red Crossbill: Region max 35 Richford TIOG 14 May (DMc); reported in all counties in Region.

Pine Siskin: many reports of this species throughout the Region in small numbers with the exception of the Region max of 75 Chenango Valley SP 30 Apr (DN).

Snow Bunting: 8 Fly Creek 4 Mar (DD); 20 Carrigan Rd BROO 5 Mar (JH); 26 Smith Hill Rd 6 Mar (MJ); 6 Delancey 7 Mar (LV).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Clay-colored Sparrow: 2 Huizinga Farm TIOG 23 May (DG).

Vesper Sparrow: 4 Whitney Pt BROO 7 Apr (DW); Cortland 15 Apr (JMc); Binghamton 16 Apr (JW,GW); site max 2 Murphys Pits 19 Apr (DN); Downsville 21 Apr (LV); Tom Dunn Rd CHEN 25 Apr (MDe).

Grasshopper Sparrow: Huizinga Farm 23 May (DG); site max 2 Harford 19 May (CW) & 26 May (JMc).

Fox Sparrow: many reports throughout entire Region.

White-crowned Sparrow: scattered reports throughout entire Region.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Helen Ave CORT 30 Apr (SBro).

Bobolink: many reports throughout entire Region.

WESTERN MEADOWLARK: Springfield Center OTSE 28 Apr (PFe,CSt) audio recordings on eBird.

Eastern Meadowlark: 5 Downsville 20 Mar (LV); Region max 7 Mt. Hunger Rd 7 Apr (DW); 6 Standish Rd CHEN 3 May (ATri).

Orchard Oriole: reports of single birds in BROO,CORT,DELA and TIOG counties.

Rusty Blackbird: Region max 12 Brick Pd Wetland Pres 23 Apr (DH); other scattered reports throughout entire Region.

Golden-winged Warbler: 2 LHNC 11 May (JMc,DG,PH).

“Lawrence’s” Warbler: King St BROO 9 May (DN).

Tennessee Warbler: Region max 5 ULCP 18 May (ATri); scattered reports throughout entire Region.

Mourning Warbler: scattered reports throughout entire Region.

Hooded Warbler: Region max 4 Griggs Gulf SF 21 May (CW); isolated reports in all counties in Region.

Cape May Warbler: Region max 5 Treadwell DELA 3 May (PP); isolated reports in all counties in Region.

Cerulean Warbler: Dorchester P 5 May (DN); Lordville DELA 23 May (LV).

Bay-breasted Warbler: reports of one or two birds in 12 locations in BROO,CHEN,CORT and TIOG counties.

Blackpoll Warbler: Region max 12 Kellogg Rd 26 May (CW); scattered reports throughout entire Region.

Wilson’s Warbler: Dorchester P 9 May (ATri); site max 2 ULCP 10 May (DN); Aquaterra BROO 11 May (DW); BUNP 11 May (AS); BUNP 15 May (JD); Bovina Ctr 20 May (RP); Kellogg Rd 26 May (CW).

SUMMER TANAGER (R4): Cortland 10 May, immature male (DT,JMc).

PAINTED BUNTING: Bainbridge 15 May, adult male (Chenango Bird Club record).

REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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2021 continued the theme of winter and by the end of the snow season was the fifth lowest total since record-keeping of this began in 1949. March average high temperature of 50.3 °F was 7.1° (!) above normal with only 1.36" of rain and 4.6" of snow, both much less than typical. Both metrics were top-ten low. April average high was 59.5°, 2.3° above normal with 2.5" of rain and 4.3" snow. May continued the trend with an average maximum of 70.4°, 1.2° over the usual and 2.55" rain. All three months had 17-19 days that were partly-sunny or better.

Water levels on inland lakes were typical of the season but exceptionally low on Lake Ontario, pointing to a dryer than normal winter on the other Great Lakes which feed Ontario through the Niagara River. Sand beach was still present at West Barrier Bar in Fair Haven, while the Carl Island shoal at Sandy Pond was exposed almost to the channel, perhaps unprecedented in modern times at least for spring.

An excellent Snow Goose flight passed Derby Hill in mid-March, the best day being 151,400 birds on 12 March. Several Ross's Geese were noted and a Greater White-fronted spent two days at the Biddlecum Road floodlands. A rare hybrid of this species with Canada Goose was noted there by Gregg Dashnau and Mickey Scilingo, while Santos Rodriguez photographed a Snow x Canada. The Loop Road floodland in western Cayuga county again hosted many Pintail and other dabblers. Another unusual hybrid continued from winter at Oswego Harbor, a Mallard x Northern Pintail. Three King Eider were noted there also plus good counts of White-winged Scoter (720) and Long-tailed Duck (1500). An excellent count of 200 Bufflehead came from Onondaga Lake with 2000 Common Merganser estimated there. A Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser, seemingly regular at Port Ontario, was noted there on 17 March. Eighteen Sandhill Cranes passing Derby Hill on 18 March may be a new record for the spot but no substantial Common Nighthawk flight was noted in late May.

Matt Brown predicted an excellent shorebird season with so much sand bar available at Sandy Pond for passing birds and indeed 20 species were found there, close to the theoretical limit for spring at the site. Brown's regular trips to the channel and shoal area were rewarded with a seventh Regional record **Marbled Godwit** present from 21-29 May and enjoyed by many as its large size and favorite sand-patch allowed it to be seen by spotting scope from Greene Point Road. Other highlights were 20 Black-bellied Plover on 26 May, Piping Plover returned to breeding, Whimbrel, **Hudsonian Godwit** (scarce in spring), Red Knot, and **Willet**. **Laughing Gulls** were found on 10, 13, and 22 May, possibly the same bird lingering. Always hard to come by, Forster's Tern was seen there between 22 and 25 May. Meanwhile on Oneida Lake, morning re-orientation flights produced a Regional record 345 Whimbrel for Drew Weber from Oneida Shores Park and a likely record 80 Red Knots. Upland Sandpiper was absent from the long-standing Fulton airport spot and was reported only from the Deerfield grasslands in Oneida County. An **American White Pelican** passed Derby Hill on 30 March and was present in the Pine Grove Road spot at Selkirk Shores from 31 March to 1 April. Gregg Dashnau saw a **Glossy Ibis** at Fair Haven on 27 April. A **White-faced Ibis** present a few hundred yards outside the Region boundary at the usual spot on Carncross Road (Wayne county) was observed flying over Howland Island by Mike Gullo before flying out of sight to the south-south-east. This represents a first record for Region 5 and Cayuga County.

Black Vulture was missed at Derby Hill but reported from expected locations. Official counts were down substantially for several species including Osprey, Kestrel, and Merlin. Weather, however, has such a strong influence on totals that

it is difficult to draw conclusions from any single year's numbers. A new count record-low was set for Northern Goshawk with only one bird passing. A putative **Red-shouldered x Red-tailed Hawk** was spotted by Bryce Robinson at Derby Hill on 10 March. Excellent photos of the bird's underside were obtained and available on eBird. The hawk is superficially most like an adult Red-shouldered with reddish breast and underwing coverts but a tail pattern with vague, narrow dark bands, wrong for an adult of the species. The bird shows other features of Red-tailed influence including an obvious belly band of dark streaks (rather than bars) and pale primaries/secondaries instead of the usually bold and heavy dark markings of Red-shouldered. No photos of the bird's upperside were obtained but presumably would show a reddish tail and a mixture of traits on the back and underwing. This rare hybrid was the raptor highlight of a season with no other rarities.

A good Northern Flicker movement was noted at Derby Hill on 28 April with 750 of these colorful birds. Olive-sided Flycatcher, always scarce, was especially so this season. Acadian Fly again returned to the woods of Sterling Nature Center but was seen only one day at the usual Whiskey Hollow location. Will this be the first year in many it does not breed there? Like a few other species, central New York is just out of range of **White-eyed Vireo** but that did not stop one from being banded on 31 May at Baltimore Woods. Will it eventually reach us as a breeder in this age of climate change? Barbara Barker added another report from Sauquoit on 16 April.

On 18 May Matt Brown found and photographed an apparent **Yellow-throated x Blue-headed Vireo** hybrid in one of the upland areas of Deer Creek Marsh. The next day Jay McGowan observed it nest-building with a singing Yellow-throated Vireo, thus implying the bird to be female. This very rare hybrid was previously unknown to the eBird taxonomy and indeed a new taxon was created in response. Species accounts in *Birds of the World Online* discuss a specimen from the 1800s thought to be this combination but at the time taken to be a distinct species. References also describe several observed nesting attempts between Yellow-throated and members of the 'Solitary Vireo' complex, its closest genetic relative. An actual hybrid vireo—thus evidence of successful nesting—is an exceptional discovery. Was the bird hatched locally and thus it is returning 'home'? Was nesting successful?

Good lakeshore flights of Black-capped Chickadee were reported from Derby Hill, where 332 were seen on 10 April doing their typical jump from tree to tree along the bluff. An excellent flight of Blue Jays occurred during May with 7809 counted at Derby Hill on the 10th. These low-passing diurnal migrants are a highlight of any visit. Early-season migration of American Crows peaked on 10 March with 10,416. Movements north begin in late February. Sedge Wren was found at Three Rivers 19 May on, while a new location in West Monroe hosted two birds from 22 May. Will they nest at either location?

A flock of 49 **Bohemian Waxwings** was seen by Kevin Topping in Salisbury, a good number given it did not appear to be a strong invasion year for

the species. Ditto four **Pine Grosbeaks** at the same place as it was a disappointing year for them as well. Winter's great irruption of redpolls and Evening Grosbeaks wound down as the species made their way north. A number of **Hoary Redpolls** were photographed or well-described, perhaps not surprising considering the number of Common flocks about. Derby Hill noted 169 Evening Grosbeaks on 3 May, an awesome finale to the best irruption in years. Both crossbills continued in the Southern Highlands of Onondaga County with 12 Reds passing Derby on 10 March and 162 Pine Siskins passed on 3 May. Lapland Longspur is often missed in spring but not this year, while 800 Snow Buntings were seen by Matt Brown at the always-productive Bishop Road spot near Pulaski on 6 March. Clay-colored Sparrow made its only appearance of the season at Sunset Bay Park on 16 May and another was photographed near Alder Creek by David Chandler on the same date. Vesper Sparrow continues to be scarce but can still be found along the fields of Scriba during migration. Orchard Oriole returned to territory on Ditch Bank Road and at Green Lakes State Park. Peak day for Red-winged Blackbirds passing Derby Hill was 11 March with 27,100 estimated, while for Common Grackles it was 26 March with 18,700 birds. The 8th of April gave 1,047 Rusties.

Most long-time observers agreed it was an epically poor warbler migration year, with small numbers and few good days. David Wheeler awaited the 'big one' at West Barrier Bar but it never came. Normally abundant in the cozy confines of the park, Blackburnian, Northern Parula, and Cape May Warblers were absent most days and Wheeler noted only 1-2 decent days at the nearby much-bigger Sterling Nature Center. Sunset Bay Park perhaps fared better but still yielded only one really good day. Wheeler heard many Tennessee singing there on 15 May only to find few at the Cayuga County lakeshore spots but was consoled by two Prairie Warblers. Was the poor showing an illusion, influence of weather, or population changes? Ken Burdick found Prothonotary Warblers at Cross Lake, and at least some returned to the Seneca River around Howland Island. Early-arriving Warblers like Yellow-rumped fared better with 1,404 passing Derby Hill on 27 April. 'Rumps winter in North America. Was this a factor or was May weather?

Region 5 hosts five MOTUS receivers (motus.org) located at Derby Hill, Three Rivers WMA, Rome WMA, Utica Zoo, and Amboy Center. Tagged birds passing within range of the receivers (15 miles in some directions) are logged and can be seen at the website above. Several interesting detections this spring included a Ruddy Turnstone tagged on 27 May near Savannah, GA detected on 29 May by the Derby, Three Rivers, and Amboy Center stations, implying the bird was attracted to Oneida Lake before heading to the Ontario lakeshore. A Common Nighthawk tagged on 10 May 2020 near Gravenhurst, Ontario was heard on 22 and 23 May by the Utica station, then a few days later back near Gravenhurst (along the east shore of Georgian Bay) where it presumably will nest. At least some of the bird's adventures so far have been captured by 18 different receivers throughout eastern North America. Three Canada Warblers tagged at Braddock Bay's banding operation to our west were picked up several days later

by Derby Hill, while two birds tagged on Presque Isle, PA (Red-eyed Vireo and Blackpoll Warbler) were heard at Three Rivers, Amboy Center, and Derby. Several Rusty Blackbirds, Horned Larks, and American Pipit tags were heard at multiple stations, having been tagged near Tadoussac, Quebec in 2020. Finally, an Evening Grosbeak tagged near Marienville, PA on 17 February passed Derby Hill on 14 May. What is the ultimate destination of these birds?

This season a total of 255 species and eight hybrids was reported, which is four above the recent 10-year average for the Region. Highlights of the season included: Ross's Goose, Greater White-fronted Goose, Eurasian Wigeon, Piping Plover, Whimbrel, **Hudsonian Godwit**, **Marbled Godwit**, Red Knot, **Willet**, **Laughing Gull**, Forster's Tern, **American White Pelican**, **Glossy Ibis**, **White-faced Ibis**, Black Vulture, **Red-shouldered x Red-tailed Hawk (hybrid)**, **White-eyed Vireo**, **Yellow-throated x Blue-headed Vireo (hybrid)**, Sedge Wren, Bohemian Waxwing, **Pine Grosbeak**, Hoary Redpoll, Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

Spring 2021 produced 174,124 eBird records for Region 5, which were processed by Swan Swan Hummingbird v5.5. Reports were contributed by 854 people. With so many submitting to eBird, the editor would like to take this opportunity to share how the 'Contributor' names below are compiled. Names appear in the list if at least one of the following four criteria are met: (1) a person's initials are used in the 'Synopsis' section; (2) a person submits a written list of sightings to the editor; (3) a person is the only one contributing from a particular part of the Region that would otherwise have no reports; or (4) a person submits above a 'participation threshold' number of eBird records which varies by season and was set at 500 for this report. Most listed below qualified under (4) but rest assured that all submissions contribute to this report.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADK – Adirondacks, n. HERK; **BLNC** – Beaver L Nature Center, Baldwinsville; **Brew** – Oneida L at Brewerton; **BRH** – Bishop Rd Hawk Watch, T Richland; **Bville** – Baldwinsville; **CM** – Clay Marsh, Clay; **Const** – Oneida L at Constantia; **DB** – Ditch Bank Rd & vicinity, T Sullivan/Lenox; **DC** – Deer Creek Marsh, T Richland; **DH** – Derby Hill, T Mexico; **DL** – Delta L; **Dolge** – Dolgeville, HERK; **FH** – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and West Barrier Bar; **Fult** – Fulton area including Oswego Ri, Indian Pt, L Neatahwanta; **GB** – Great Bear Rec Area, Fulton; **GLSP** – Green Lakes SP, Fayetteville; **HF** – Highland Forest CP; **HI** – Howland I WMA, CAYU; **HV** – Happy Valley WMA, Parish; **KK** – Kindred Kingdom Wildlife Center, Pennellville; **LH** – Labrador Hollow Unique Area; **LOnt** – L Ontario; **LoopR** – Loop Rd, Montezuma NWR, CAYU; **MCL** – Madison County Landfill; **MexPt** – Mexico Pt SP; **MH** – Morgan Hill State Forest, Fabius; **MSI** – Madison St Impoundment, Hamilton; **MW** – McKoons Rd Wetland, Colombia Center, s. HERK; **OakC** – Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse; **OF** – Old Forge; **OLC** – Onondaga L Creekwalk; **OLP** – Onondaga Lake P; **OneiL** – Oneida L; **OnonL** – Onondaga L; **OSP** – Oneida Shores P, Brewerton; **OswH** – Oswego Harbor; **Phx** – Phoenix dam area; **PPT** – Oneida L at Phillips Pt, W Monroe; **PSS** – Peter Scott Swamp, Phoenix; **RCFS** – Rice Creek Field Station, Oswego; **RRP** – Radisson Ri P, Three Rivers confluence, Phoenix; **SBP** – Sunset Bay P, Scriba; **SFNS** – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; **Sithe** – trails at Independence P, formerly Sithe Energy, Scriba; **SH** – Southern Highlands of ONON & MADI; **SHTF** – Sky High Turf Farm, Chittenango; **Skane** – Skaneateles; **SNC** – Sterling Nature Center, Sterling; **SP** – Sandy Pd and vicinity; **SSSP** – Selkirk Shores SP; **SVB** – Sylvan & Verona Beach; **Syr** – Syracuse; **TNP** – Tuscarora Nature P, MADI; **TR** – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; **UM** – Utica Marsh; **VBSP** – Verona Beach SP; **WH** – Whiskey Hollow; **WP** – Woodman Pd, Hamilton.

DERBY HILL HAWKWATCH TOTALS

Species	Arr*	Max	Max Date	Total
Black Vulture	-	-	-	0
Turkey Vulture	2 Mar	2800	8 Apr	28,069
Osprey	28 Mar	40	4 May	273
Golden Eagle	3 Mar	26	11 Mar	79
No. Harrier	4 Mar	34	9 Apr	365
Sharp-shinned Hawk	10 Mar	272	4 May	2188
Cooper's Hawk	3 Mar	23	11 Mar	286
No. Goshawk	9 Mar	1	9 Mar	1
Bald Eagle	1 Mar	66	3 May	839
Red-shouldered Hawk	10 Mar	89	11 Mar	517
Broad-winged Hawk	Apr	3946	24 Apr	21,911
Swainson's Hawk	-		-	0
Red-tailed Hawk	3 Mar	510	11 Mar	3379
Rough-legged Hawk	4 Mar	16	10 Mar	112
Am. Kestrel	9 Mar	28	28 Apr	263
Merlin	3 Mar	3	30 Mar	36
Peregrine Falcon	3 Mar	4	27 Apr	24
Unidentified	-	-	-	0
Total incl unidentified				58,348

*first migrants at the Hawkwatch

WATERFOWL — HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 20550 DH 11 Mar; 32625 DH 21 Mar; 33410 DH 17 Mar; max 151400 DH 12 Mar; a few stragglers noted after end of Mar.

Ross's Goose: OakC 11 Mar (AP); SBP 17 Mar (GD); 2 DH 21 Mar.

Greater White-fronted Goose: Biddlecum Rd Phx 14-15 Mar (MS).

Brant: arr 2 OnonL 24 Apr; max 835 PPt 14 May.

Cackling Goose: 5 OnonL 9 Mar; 6 Biddlecum Rd Phx 15 Mar; last DH 22 Mar.

Canada Goose: 13895 DH 20 Mar; max 17860 DH 11 Mar.

Greater White-fronted x Canada Goose (hybrid): Biddlecum Rd Phx 14-15 Mar (GD, MS).

Snow x Canada Goose (hybrid): Phx 14-15 Mar (SR).

Mute Swan: max 68 FH 5 Mar; smaller nums typ locs.

Trumpeter Swan: small nums typ locs; max 12 HI 24 Apr.

Tundra Swan: max 32 OnonL 3 Mar; last 6 PPt 24 Mar.

Wood Duck: max 48 Port Ont 1 Apr.

Blue-winged Teal: arr SkanL 22 Mar; max 14 DC; small nums to late May.

Northern Shoveler: max 48 FH 26 Mar; last 2 SP 22 May.

Gadwall: max 34 OnonL 8 Apr.

Eurasian Wigeon: Canastota 30 Mar; Volney 28 Mar – 14 Apr.

American Wigeon: max 84 FH; last 2 SP 27 May.

Mallard: common, widespread throughout Reg; max 750 LoopR 11 Mar.

American Black Duck: max 62 SSSP 9-11 Mar.

Mallard x Am. Black Duck (hybrid): max 2 SSSP 9 Mar.

Northern Pintail: max 1600 LoopR 11 Mar; last LoopR & 4 SP 10 May.

Mallard x Northern Pintail (hybrid): OswH 7 Mar, unusual.

Green-winged Teal: arr 2 Hannibal 10 Mar; max 75 WP 21 Apr.
Canvasback: max 36 OnonL 20 Mar; last 2 OnonL 23 Mar.
Redhead: max est 1000+ OnonL 9-15 Mar; last 8 LoopR 1 May
Ring-necked Duck: 277 WP 11 Mar; 300 OnonL 11 Mar; 370 DL 6 Apr; max 400 SP 24 Mar.
Greater Scaup: max 960 OswH 5 Mar; last 5 PPt 10 May.
Lesser Scaup: max 300 OnonL 17 Mar; last WP 25 May.
Greater/Lesser Scaup: max 1400 PPt 26 Mar.
King Eider: max 3 OswH 3-9 Mar; only rep.
Surf Scoter: 1-2 OswH 3-10 Mar; 2 PPt & WP 2 May; max 3 PPt 8 May; Rome 19 Apr.
White-winged Scoter: max 720 OswH; last 45 Const 21 May.
Black Scoter: 1-3 OswH 3-19 Mar; WP 30 Apr; last 2 OnonL 1 May.
Long-tailed Duck: 1100 DH 3 May; 1500 OswH 7 Mar; max 1930 DH 25 Apr; last OSP 30 May.
Bufflehead: max 200 OnonL 7 Apr; last OnonL 31 May.
Common Goldeneye: max 300 SP 24 Mar; last Const 22 May.
Hooded Merganser: max 75 OnonL 17 Mar.
Common Goldeneye x Hooded Merganser (hybrid): Port Ont 17 Mar (MB, ph).
Common Merganser: max est 2000 OnonL 23 Mar.
Red-breasted Merganser: max est 500 LOnt 8 May.
Ruddy Duck: 5 OnonL 7 Apr; 11 CazL 24 Apr; 18 WP 30 Apr; max 21 BLNC 7 Apr.
Ring-necked Pheasant: max 2 DH thru; few other reps.
Ruffed Grouse: max 11 Fabius 21 May.
Wild Turkey: max 55 DB 13, 25 Mar.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 9 HI 5 Apr.
Horned Grebe: max 12 PPt 20 Apr; last WP 5 May.
Red-necked Grebe: arr OnonL 2 Apr; max 10 PPt 13 Apr; last OnonL 14 May.
Rock Pigeon: flocks widespread.
Mourning Dove: max 42 Camillus 6 Mar; small groups common & widespread.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr SBP 9 May; max 2 SBP 26 May.
Black-billed Cuckoo: arr Fayetteville 5 May; max 5 DC 16 May.
Common Nighthawk: arr Pennellville 20 May; max 8 Manlius 26 May; no big lakeshore flight noted.

Eastern Whip-poor-will: arr WH 4 May; singles typ locs.
Chimney Swift: arr DH 25 Apr; max 60 DeWitt 9 May.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Osw 30 Apr; max 51 Stillwater Hotel banding op (GL) 29 May.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Virginia Rail: arr WP 4 Apr; max 7 Verona 18 May.
Sora: arr Verona 17 Apr; max 6 Verona 4 May.
Common Gallinule: arr WMonroe 10 Apr; max 8 DeWitt 9 May.
American Coot: max 23 Forestport 26 Mar, unusual loc; 20 OnonL 8 Apr.
Sandhill Crane: arr 3 DH 10 Mar; max 18 DH 23 Mar; small nums var locs, some possibly remain to nest.
Black-bellied Plover: arr 5 WMonroe 4 May; max 20 SP 26 May.
Semipalmated Plover: arr 2 IH 5 May; max 44 SP 26 May.
Piping Plover: arr SP 24 Apr (CN, MB); SP 22 May; early season reports suppressed.
Killdeer: max 19 DH 10 Mar.
Upland Sandpiper: 2 Deerfield 9 May; only rep.
Whimbrel: arr Const 21 May; 3 SP 27 May; 40 PPt 25 May; 113 Const 25 May (MS); max 345 OSP 25 May (DWe), morning re-orientation flight on Oneil, *intro*, known phenomenon but rec num.
Hudsonian Godwit: Biddlecum Rd Phx 6 May (KM, BP); SP 15 May (MB).
MARBLED GODWIT (R5): SP 21-29 May (MB, ph, mob), 3rd county rec, 7th Reg rec.
Ruddy Turnstone: arr Biddlecum Rd Phx 12 May; max 15 SP 26 May.
Red Knot: arr 6 Const 22 May (MS); 21 SP 22 May (JM); 20 PPt 25 May (JCo, LC); max 80 OSP 25 May (DWe); 2 Const 27 May.
Sanderling: no reports.
Dunlin: arr SP 3 May; max 83 Const 26 May.
Least Sandpiper: arr 3 IH 5 May; max 51 SP 15 May.
White-rumped Sandpiper: arr MSI 14-15 May; Biddlecum Rd Phx 15 May; 1-2 SP 21-26 May.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr MSI 6 Apr; max 3 Biddlecum Rd Phx 20 May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr Munnsville 10 May; max 60 SP 26 May.
peep sp.: 100 Const 25 May; 120 Const 26 May; sev reps smaller flocks.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr FH 18 May (BC); 3 - max 4 SP 21-26 May (MB, CN)

American Woodcock: arr TR 15 Mar; max 12 LH 26 Mar.

Wilson's Snipe: arr 2 Salisbury 22 Mar; max 37 WMonroe 31 Mar.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr Kirkville 7 Apr (TM, ph), early, next 2 OnonL 21 Apr; max 20 OnonL 7 May.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr OnonL 29 Apr; max 16 Brookfield 15 May.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 2 PSS 9 Apr; max 9 Biddlecum Rd Phx 9 May.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr Little Falls 25 Mar; max 23 LoopR 13 Apr.

Greater/Lesser Yellowlegs: max 25 LoopR 16 May.

Willet: SP 25-27 May (MB).

Bonaparte's Gull: arr OnonL 26 Mar; max 149 Ppt 6 May.

LAUGHING GULL (R5): SP 10, 13 May (MB); SP 22 May (DDu, TMe, JMa).

Ring-billed Gull: max est 4500 OswH 5 Mar.

Herring Gull: max est 1000 OswH 6 Mar.

Iceland Gull: max 3 OswH 5 Mar; last 2 OswH 10 May.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: max 6 SP 27 Apr (MB); 5 OswH 15 Apr; FH 27 May (DWh).

Glaucous Gull: max 3 SP 27 Apr (MB); last OswH 8 May (GD).

Great Black-backed Gull: max 37 IH 2 Mar.

Caspian Tern: arr 11 SP 9 Apr; max 263 OswH 8 May.

Black Tern: arr OSP 30 Apr; singles 4 typ locs incl OnonL 6, 10, 15 May; nums down & not reported from SSSP.

Common Tern: arr OnonL 23 Apr; max 52 OSP 23 May.

Forster's Tern: 2 SP 22 May (JM); 4 SP 23 May (MB); 3 SP 25 May (MB).

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: WP 7 Apr; DC 11 Apr; only reps.

Common Loon: max 43 Ppt 29 Apr; mig flight DH mid-Apr to mid-May.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 600 FH 15 May; best nums mid-Apr to early May.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN (R5): DH 30 Mar; SSSP 31 Mar – 01 Apr (MB).

American Bittern: arr TR 11 Apr; max DC 16 May.

Least Bittern: arr DC 14 Apr; max 5 Brew 30 May.

Great Blue Heron: max 100 est LoopR 1 May; 63 Biddlecum Rd Phx 10 Apr; 46 SNC 14 May; widespread throughout Reg.

Great Egret: arr 2 West Leyden 27 Mar; max 20 LoopR 16 May.

Green Heron: arr CM 11 Apr; max 4 DH 28 Apr.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: SkanL 16 May; WP 18 May; only reps.

GLOSSY IBIS (R5): FH 27 Apr (GD).

WHITE-FACED IBIS: HI 18 May (MG), flew from Carncross Rd, Wayne county, across Cayuga county line and over HI before disappearing in SSE direction. 1st Reg & county rec.

Black Vulture: OakC 11 Mar (AP); 3 Little Falls 19 Mar (KT); 1-2 Jville area sev dates 24 Mar – 19 May; Clinton 22 Mar (EW); 2 MH 25 Apr (SP), very unusual loc; 2 New York Mills 3 May (LM); 2 Rome 12 May (WR).

Turkey Vulture: max 2800 DH 8 Apr.

Osprey: arr Pulaski 23 Mar; max 40 DH 4 May.

Golden Eagle: arr DH 3 Mar; max 26 DH 11 Mar, rec num; SNC 10 Mar (DWh); 4 BRH 11 Mar (MB); last DH 9 May.

Northern Harrier: max 34 DH 9 Apr.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 272 DH 4 May.

Cooper's Hawk: max 23 DH 11 Mar.

Northern Goshawk: DH 9 Mar, rec low, *intro*; only rep.

Bald Eagle: 66 DH 3 May; max 78 OnonL 9 Mar.

Red-shouldered Hawk: arr DH 8 Mar; max 89 DH 11 Mar.

Broad-winged Hawk: arr DH 8 Apr; max 3946 DH 24 Apr.

Red-tailed Hawk: max 510 DH 11 Mar; dark morph 5 Apr, rare.

Rough-legged Hawk: max 17 DH 11 Mar; last DH 8 May.

Eastern Screech-Owl: singles typ locs but few reps.

Great Horned Owl: singles/nesting pairs widespread typ locs.

Snowy Owl: T Fenner MADI 14 Mar; Salisbury 21 Mar; Eaton 6 Apr; only reps.

Barred Owl: singles/nesting pairs widespread typ locs.

Long-eared Owl: no reports.

Short-eared Owl: Oneida 17 Mar; DH 23, 24 Mar; 2 LoopR 29 Mar; only reps.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: no reports.

Belted Kingfisher: max 6 DH 24 Apr.

Red-headed Woodpecker: pairs at established locs Ont & Onei lakeshore; max 5 FH 17 May.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: common & widespread throughout Reg.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 6 Pratts Falls 25 Apr.
Downy Woodpecker: common & widespread throughout Reg.
Hairy Woodpecker: common & widespread throughout Reg.
Northern Flicker: max 750 DH 28 Apr.
Pileated Woodpecker: widespread resident most places in Reg.
American Kestrel: max 28 DH 28 Apr.
Merlin: max 3 DH 30 Mar.
Peregrine Falcon: max 5 Utica May thru, incl 3 young.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr TR 29 Apr; max 13 HI 23 May.
Eastern Kingbird: arr TR 28 Apr; max 21 DH 3 May.
Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr HF 15 May; Rome 26 May; WH 27 May; only reps.
Eastern Wood-Pewee: arr WP 1 May; max 10 Kirkland Woods 25 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Salisbury 16 May; DC 19 May; FH 30 May; only reps.
Acadian Flycatcher: arr 2 SNC 19 May; singles 4 known locs; only reps.
Alder Flycatcher: arr GB 12 May; max 5 GLSP 28 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr Dolge 6 May; max 10 OLP 20 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr OLP 29 Apr; max 15 OLP 7 May.
Eastern Phoebe: arr Mexico 10 Mar; DH 22 Mar; max 10 FH 4 Apr.
Northern Shrike: few reps singles; last Ohio & Oneida 5 Apr.
WHITE-EYED VIREO (R5): Sauquoit 16 Apr (BaB); BW 31 May (MSt, AK) at banding station.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr HV 24 Apr; max 6 Brookfield 15 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr TR 12 Apr; max 6 MH 24 Apr.
YELLOW-THROATED x BLUE-HEADED VIREO (hybrid): DC 18 May (MB, ph) & 19 May (JM, ph), first record for eBird, *intro*.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr Syr 12 May; singles 8 locs.
Warbling Vireo: arr Eagle Bay 27 Apr; max 15 HI 23 May.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr 2 Osw 1 May; max 25 DL 24 May.

Blue Jay: 4290 DH 3 May; 4565 DH 16 May; 7499 DH 4 May; max 7809 DH 9 May.
American Crow: 2257 DH 22 Mar; 4531 DH 11 Mar; max 10416 DH 10 Mar, migratory flight.
Fish Crow: max 12 DH 11 Apr; 11 Clay 3 Mar; continuing reps mostly from known locs and mostly ONON.
Common Raven: many reps throughout Reg; max 18 Fulton 23 May.
Horned Lark: max 115 DH 30 Mar.
Purple Martin: arr SkanL 22 Apr; max 25 Oneil 5 May & SkanL 30 Apr.
Tree Swallow: arr Biddlecum Rd, TR 21 Mar; 300 DH 20 Apr; max 500 Phx 1 Apr.
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: arr Phx 1 Apr, early; max 25 Phx 21 Apr.
Bank Swallow: arr 12 SNC 23 Apr; max 100 Phx 11 May.
Cliff Swallow: arr Phx 21 Apr; max 14 Bridgeport 9 May.
Barn Swallow: arr Port Ont 1 Apr; max 200 OnonL 9 May.
Black-capped Chickadee: 236 DH 8 Apr; 244 DH 13 Apr; max 332 DH 10 Apr, migratory flight on lakeshore; else widespread resident throughout Reg.
Tufted Titmouse: widespread resident throughout Reg.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 12 SBP 13 May.
White-breasted Nuthatch: widespread throughout Reg.
Brown Creeper: max 14 SBP 15 Apr.
House Wren: arr 2 Munnsville 10 Apr; max 12 New Hartford 2 May.
Winter Wren: arr Hamilton 14 Mar; max 5 Sithe 29 Apr.
Sedge Wren: TR 19, 26, 31 May (GD); 2 WMonroe 22, 25, 26 May (BP, MS, mob); only reps.
Marsh Wren: arr DC 12 Apr; max 18 Brew 29 May.
Carolina Wren: typ nums/locs mostly ONON, resident.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr TR 12 Apr; max 8 HI 14 May.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: arr DH 8 Mar; max 24 Osw 1 May.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Fville 31 Mar; max est 160 DC 30 Apr.
Eastern Bluebird: max 20 Clinton 10 Mar.
Veery: arr Pleasant Valley Pr 2 May; max 14 Camden 25 May.

Gray-checked Thrush: arr HF 13 May; SBP 18, 21, 25, 28 May; MPSP 21 May; max 2 Sithe 21 May; only reps.

Swainson's Thrush: arr OLC 4 May; max 6 FH 17 May.

Hermit Thrush: arr Syr 16 Mar; max 8 Syr 22 Apr.

Wood Thrush: arr 3 TR 28 Apr; max 11 Canastota 31 May.

American Robin: max 1440 26 Mar, migration; else common & widespread in Reg.

Gray Catbird: arr 5 OakC 26 Apr; max 38 DC 16 May.

Brown Thrasher: arr OLP 6 Apr; max 12 Scriba 29 Apr.

Northern Mockingbird: singles/pairs typ locs, mostly ONON.

European Starling: max est 2000 DH 10 Mar.

Bohemian Waxwing: max 49 Salisbury 18 Mar (KT); Salisbury 28 Mar (KT); MSI 10 Apr (GM).

Cedar Waxwing: max 113 DH 11 Mar.

House Sparrow: flocks widespread throughout Reg.

American Pipit: arr DH 10 Mar; 80 BRH 1 Apr; max 127 DH 28 Apr.

Evening Grosbeak: 28 DH 3 Mar; 36 Erieville Apr – 14 May; max 169 DH 3 May; last Rome 16 May; end of irruption winter.

Pine Grosbeak: 4 Salisbury 9 Mar (KT); only rep.

House Finch: max 19 DH 10 Mar; small groups widespread throughout Reg.

Purple Finch: 19 Dolge 4 May; max 26 DH 28 Apr; typ nums/locs.

Common Redpoll: 53 DH 11 Mar; 78 DH 28 Mar; max 152 DH 24 Mar; last Alder Crk 11 May; end of irruption winter.

Hoary Redpoll: Salisbury 3, 16 Mar (KT); Dolge 6-15 Mar (EF); Marcellus 6 Mar (KF); Pulaski 10 Mar (MB, BiB); Palermo 16 Mar (JoM); Syr 6 Apr (TM); Alder Crk 9 Apr (DC); most recs well documented.

Red Crossbill: 12 DH 10 Mar; max 50 HF 21 Mar; flocks to 25 MH thru, permanent residents?

White-winged Crossbill: 1-5 MH from winter thru 24 Apr; mild irruption year for sp.

Pine Siskin: max 162 DH 3 May; small flocks usual locs.

American Goldfinch: max 188 DH 4 May; widespread resident throughout Reg.

Lapland Longspur: BRH 4, 6, 12 Mar (MB, BP); max 2 Fenner 12 Mar; Salisbury 24 Mar (KT); last Waterville 22 Apr (RW); only reps.

Snow Bunting: max est 800 BRH 6 Mar (MB); last BRH 1 Apr.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: several in Mar likely wintered nearby; arr DC 3 Apr; max 10 Memphis 9 May, GLSP 28 May.

American Tree Sparrow: max 40 OLP 10 Mar; last DeWitt 11 May, late.

Chipping Sparrow: a few wintering birds through Mar; arr early/mid Apr; max 50 SBP 28 Apr.

Clay-colored Sparrow: SBP 16 May (mob); Alder Crk 16, 19 May (DC, ph); only reps.

Field Sparrow: arr Pulaski 23 Mar; max 12 GLSP 17 May.

Vesper Sparrow: arr Mexico 24 Mar, early; max 6 SBP 9 Apr; best nums Apr, only a few in May.

Savannah Sparrow: SNC 2 Mar, likely wintered nearby; arr OLP 28 Mar; max 8 'Honeywell grasslands' 28 Apr.

Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Manheim 29 Apr; max 6 Camillus 19 May; small nums typ locs.

Fox Sparrow: arr Fville 11 Mar; max 12 TR 4 Apr; last Osw 6 May (ph).

Song Sparrow: max 150 SBP 28 Mar.

Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Clinton 28 Apr; max 7 FH 17 May; last OLC 23 May.

Swamp Sparrow: small num Mar typ locs; arr late Mar/early Apr; 14 PSS 4 Apr; max 23 PSS 2 May.

White-throated Sparrow: max 154 DC 30 Apr.

White-crowned Sparrow: a few wintering birds through Mar-Apr; arr late Apr/early May; max 25 Osw & SNC 15 May; last Salisbury 27 May.

Dark-eyed Junco: max 61 OakC 9 Apr.

Bobolink: arr Salisbury 28 Apr; max 50 TR 19 May & Lacona 27 May.

Eastern Meadowlark: arr Memphis 10 Mar; 9 BRH 12 Mar; max 23 DH 28 Apr.

Orchard Oriole: arr Clinton 3 May; max 4 GLSP 15 May & DB 16 May; scarce in Reg.

Baltimore Oriole: arr Lafayette 18 Apr, early; Bridgewater 21 Apr, early; max 50 DH 17 May.

Red-winged Blackbird: 9330 DH 17 Mar; 11240 DH 10 Mar; max 27100 DH 11 Mar.

Brown-headed Cowbird: max 465 DH 30 Mar.

Rusty Blackbird: arr 4 OLP 11 Mar, early; 200 DC 8, 12, 14, 18 Apr; 547 DH 30 Mar; 660

DH 28 Apr; 670 DH 4 May; max 1047 DH 8 Apr.
Common Grackle: 14290 DH 8 Apr; max 18700 DH 26 Mar.
Ovenbird: arr TR 28 Apr; max 22 GB 30 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr Pratts Falls 14 Apr; max 4 MH 24 Apr.
Northern Waterthrush: arr WP 24 Apr; max 6 Ppt.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr SBP 5 May; singles rep at 9 locs.
Blue-winged Warbler: arr five locs 3 May; max 4 typ locs 7-18 May.
Golden-winged x Blue-winged Warbler (hybrid): DC 19 May.
"Brewster's" Warbler: Const 3 May.
"Lawrence's" Warbler: Memphis 9 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr TR 27 Apr; max 12 SBP 5 May.
Prothonotary Warbler: 2 HI 15 May; 2 WP 17 May (GM, RC); 2 Cross Lake 21 May (KB); 4 HI 23 May; Cato 24 May (KB); only reps.
Tennessee Warbler: arr Syr 5 May; max 9 SBP 15 May; last SP 27 May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: SBP 17 May; only report.
Nashville Warbler: arr HI 30 Apr; max 6 SBP 15 May.
Mourning Warbler: arr SBP 10 May; max 5 WH 26 May & MH 24 May & HF 22 May.
Common Yellowthroat: arr Marcellus 18 Apr; max 20 PSS 15 May.
Hooded Warbler: arr Syr 2 May; max 6 Clinton 21 May.
American Redstart: arr TR 29 Apr; max 60 DC 16 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr FH 1 May; max 14 SBP 15 May, good num; last DH 26 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr 2 HI 3 May; max 13 HI 14 May; scarce away from known locs.

Northern Parula: arr TR 29 Apr; max 7 Sithe, SBP, DC 15-16 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr OakC 2 May; max 4 DC 19 May, low.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Oneida 7 May; max 4 SFNS 17, 19 May; last 30 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr Spafford 29 Apr; max 12 Bubb Lake 29 May.
Yellow Warbler: arr DC 21 Apr; max 35 DC 17 May.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr Verona 28 Apr; max 13 GLSP 28 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr SBP 15 May; max 13 FH.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr TR 2 May; max 10 Moss Lake 25 May.
Palm Warbler: arr LH 15 Apr; max 75 DH 5 May; last FH 21 May.
Pine Warbler: arr TR, Salisbury, Rome 30 Mar; max 8 DC 29 Apr.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: RRP 1 Mar; several other Mar recs poss wintered; arr DH 7 Apr; 125 FH 4 May; 260 DH 4 May; max 1404 DH 27 Apr.
Prairie Warbler: arr Scriba 8 May; 2 FH 15 May; GLSP 18-28 May; Georgetown 9 May; New Woodstock 11 May; only reps.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Syr 28 Apr; max 11 SFNS 3 May.
Canada Warbler: arr 2 Williamstown 2 May; max 2 var locs 17-25 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr Syr 14 May; max 2 DC 18 May; last FH 26 May.
Scarlet Tanager: arr TR 1 May; max 11 Camden 24 May.
Northern Cardinal: widespread resident throughout Reg.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr 2 Cross Lake 28 Apr; max 16 DH 17 May.

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REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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Spring was generally mild and dry. Watertowns's mean monthly temperature was 3.0° F and 1.7° F above normal respectively for March and April, but 2.2° below normal for May. Precipitation was within 0.2" of normal in April, but the 1.9" of precipitation that fell in March was 0.7" below normal, and the 1.8" that fell in May was 1.9" short of average. Coming on the heels of a dry winter with little snowpack, the cumulative precipitation deficit resulted in abnormally dry conditions throughout the Region, with moderate drought in the St. Lawrence Valley.

Arrival dates were obtained for 91 species that are tracked by *Kingbird* Regional Editors annually to assess the relative timing of migration. Of these species, 61 arrived more than two days earlier than long-term average arrival dates, 26 within two days of average, and just four species later than the long-term mean. The average arrival date for this suite of species was 22 April, which ties this spring with 2017 as the second earliest arrival on record. However, many of the species that arrived earlier than normal were first seen on dates typical of the recent past. For instance, the season's first American Woodcock was heard on 11 March, ten days earlier than the long-term average but later than four of the last five years. Similarly, the first Ruby-throated Hummingbird was at a Cape Vincent feeder on 4 May, six days earlier than average but on the same date as four out of the last six years. Nine species set or tied early arrival dates: Common Gallinule, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Tennessee Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Pine Warbler, and Palm Warbler.

Waterfowl and waterbird numbers and diversity were fairly typical for Region 6. The spring's usual handful of rare geese consisted of one Ross's Goose over Fort Drum on 21 March, and reports of single Cackling Geese at three locations between 19 and 22 March. A group of Greater Scaup Karl Bardon estimated to contain 4500 individuals, high for recent years, was off Point Peninsula on 4 March, where the last Barrow's Goldeneye of the season was seen during that same week. Common Loons usually arrive in Region 6 during the last few days of March or the first week of April, so one at Robert Wehle State Park on 17 March was early but not totally unexpected given the relative abundance of open water following the mild winter.

Shorebirds were surprisingly scarce given that low water on many ponds and rivers resulted in more exposed shoreline than is typical, and Lake Ontario was lower than it has been for several years. Such regularly seen migrants as Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Dunlin, and Least Sandpiper were barely reported, some with just one observation for the season. Despite the general lack of shorebirds several rarities turned up. A pair of **Piping Plovers** attempted to nest

at Lakeview WMA, but the nest failed and the plovers apparently abandoned the site by the end of May. For Global Big Day on 8 May Tom Auer visited Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, where he saw a **Wilson's Phalarope** fly by, a species infrequently recorded in spring anywhere in Region 6. Raymond Spahn found a Willet at El Dorado on 15 May, but as with most Regional Willet sightings it did not linger.

On 21 May Dick Brouse and Brian Miller observed a **Glossy Ibis** at Perch River WMA. At about the same time late reports started coming in of at least one *Plegadis* ibis roaming around Point Peninsula and adjacent areas for more than a week in May, although the nonbirders who saw it did not provide sufficient information to determine whether it was a Glossy or White-faced Ibis, and the poor photographs that eventually turned up were no help in making a definitive identification. The Point Peninsula observations reportedly came right before the Perch River bird was found, so perhaps they were all of the same individual, although it is equally possible that two or more ibis were present in Jefferson County.

The passerine migration was more active than during the previous couple of years, especially during two periods, one beginning 30 March and ending 10 April, and the other from about 28 April to 5 May. All of the record early arrivals mentioned above fell within these two periods, in addition to several other very early arrivals not tracked by *Kingbird*, such as Field and Vesper Sparrows, which arrived on 31 March. Also included in this latter window was the season's only true songbird rarity, a **Prothonotary Warbler** on Fort Drum 29 April.

A nice mix of irruptives continued well into the spring. Bohemian Waxwings were generally scarce and mostly restricted to northern St. Lawrence County, with only about half a dozen reports of more than 10 individuals. Of the suite of Northeastern irruptive finches only White-winged Crossbill was unreported this season. There were just three Red Crossbill reports, and if nesting occurred in the Adirondack portion of St. Lawrence County as seems likely, it went undetected. Four reasonable Hoary Redpoll reports continued the high rate of occurrence of this usually rarely detected finch from the winter, perhaps because of increased reporting.

Grassland birds of high conservation concern were scarcely reported by the end of May. Upland Sandpiper seems to barely be holding on in Jefferson County, with just two sightings away from the Fort Drum stronghold. The only Sedge Wrens were 2-3 individuals at Lakeview WMA first found on 17 May by Greg Lawrence, Robert Buckert, and Jules Wagner. The paucity of Sedge Wren sightings was expected given how very dry fields were throughout Region 6. For the first time in memory no Henslow's Sparrows were reported by the end of May, leading to speculation that we are approaching the perhaps inevitable extirpation of this species from Region 6 and possibly New York State.

For the season I received reports of 235 species, a little more than one above the spring average for Region 6 in the eBird era. The early and active songbird migration was appreciated by many, especially given the sluggish passage of

neotropical migrants during the previous two springs. Once again there was no real standout as bird of the season, given that as so often happens in Region 6, no rarity was seen by more than a very few birders. The continued increase in Regional birding activity is welcome, although it is a little disappointing that most birders are going to the same places when there is a vast area of Region 6 getting little to no attention for the Breeding Bird Atlas.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AFWMA – Ashland Flats WMA; **BI** – Barnhart I, T Massena, STLA; **BPWMA** – Black Pd WMA; **ChB** – Chaumont Bay; **CCSP** – Coles Creek SP; **CLBS** – Cranberry L Biological Station, T Clifton; **CV** – T Cape Vincent; **CWF** – Canton Wastewater Treatment Facility; **ED** – El Dorado Shores Pres, T Ellisburg; **FD** – Fort Drum Military Reservation, JEFF & LEWI; **ICNC** – Indian Creek Nature Center, T Canton, STLA; **JCSP** – Jacques Cartier SP; **JEFF** – Jefferson Co.; **KC** – Kelsey Creek, T Watertown; **LBSF** – Lonesome Bay State Forest, T Hammond; **LEWI** – Lewis Co.; **LSB** – Little Sucker Brook P; **LWMA** – Lakeview WMA; **MM** – Massawepie Mire, T Colton & Piercefield, STLA; **MP** – Montario Pt, T Ellisburg; **MT** – Munter Trail Clarkson University, T Potsdam; **PilPt** – Pillar Pt, JEFF; **PRWMA** – Perch River WMA, JEFF; **PtPen** – Pt Peninsula, T Lyme, JEFF; **RLT** – Richards Landing Trail, T Massena; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, T Massena; **RRT** – Remington Recreation Trail, T Canton; **RS** – SUNY ESF Ranger School, T Fine; **RWSP** – Robert Wehle SP; **SBSP** – Southwick Beach SP; **SLR** – St. Lawrence Ri; **STLA** – St. Lawrence Co.; **StPt** – Stony Pt, T Henderson, JEFF; **ULLWMA** – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton;

WBSP – Westcott Beach SP; **WHWMA** – Wilson Hill WMA; **WP** – Whalen P, T Louisville.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: arr T Watertown 3 Mar; heaviest movement 12-22 Mar; a few widely scattered singles to 21 May.

Ross's Goose: with Snow Geese over ULLWMA 21 Mar (JB).

Brant: 21 LSB & 14 WHWMA 16 May; multiple nocturnal flocks heard T Dekalb 18 May; 30 Sixberry L 20 May;

Cackling Goose: T Watertown 19 Mar (BM); LSB 20 Mar (JB); FD 22 Mar (JB).

Canada Goose: heaviest migration 12-22 Mar.

Mute Swan: max 47 Blind Bay T Alexandria 9 May.

Trumpeter Swan: max 17 ULLWMA 11 Mar.

Tundra Swan: max 165 PtPen 21 Mar; last 6 ChB 30 Mar.

Wood Duck: arr PtPen 3 Mar; max 48 ULLWMA 18 Mar.

Blue-winged Teal: arr WHWMA 2 Apr; max 8 AFWMA 3 Apr.

Northern Shoveler: arr PtPen 13 Mar; max 31 CWF 30 Mar.

Gadwall: max 27 LWMA 9 Apr.

American Wigeon: arr PtPen 10 Mar; max 175 WHWMA 4 Apr.

Mallard: max 245 SLR T Waddington 20 Mar.

American Black Duck: max 48 T Dekalb 3 Apr.

Northern Pintail: arr PilPt 9 Mar; max 250 WHWMA 11 Apr.

Green-winged Teal: arr PilPt 9 Mar; max 143 WP 4 Apr.

Redhead: max 300 PtPen 4 Mar.

Ring-necked Duck: max 1260 WHWMA 4 Apr.

Greater Scaup: max 4500 PtPen 4 Mar high for recent years (KB).

Lesser Scaup: max 300 PtPen 7 Mar.

White-winged Scoter: max 2 SBSP 8 May; last ED 17 May.

Black Scoter: JCSP 9 May only report.

Long-tailed Duck: max 225 SBSP 8 May; last ED 17 May.

Bufflehead: max 107 JCSP 9 May; last RLT 16 May.

Common Goldeneye: max 1200 PtPen 14 Mar; last 26 JCSP 9 May.

Barrow's Goldeneye: last PtPen early Mar.

Hooded Merganser: max 30 PtPen 14 Mar.

Common Merganser: max 110 WHWMA 27 Mar.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 82 RLT 4 Apr.

Pied-billed Grebe: arr ULLWMA 13 Mar.

Horned Grebe: arr CCSP 4 Apr; max 29 T Watertown 20 Apr; last 11 Whetstone Gulf Reservoir 27 Apr.

Red-necked Grebe: arr T Watertown 20 Apr; max 9 ULLWMA 12 May; last ULLWMA 13 May.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr T Copenhagen 12 May; 8 additional reports more than usual.

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr RLT 16 May; max 6 FD 28 May.

Common Nighthawk: arr FD 19 May.

Eastern Whip-poor-will: arr T Gouverneur 4 May.

Chimney Swift: arr T Potsdam 2 May.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr CV 4 May.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Virginia Rail: arr T Potsdam 25 Apr.

Sora: arr ULLWMA 18 Apr.

Common Gallinule: arr PRWMA 10 Apr.

American Coot: multiple reports 1-2 PRWMA 24 Mar to 27 May; Beaver Meadows T Watertown 9-11 Apr.

Sandhill Crane: arr ULLWMA 25 Mar where pair nested; another probable pair PRWMA 14 Apr to 14 May; migrants WBSP 4 Apr, FD 14 Apr, 2 T Massena 29 Apr & LBSF 2 May.

Black-bellied Plover: 3 LWMA 27 May only report.

Semipalmated Plover: 2 PilPt 18 May; max 5 LWMA 27 May; FD 29 May only reports.

PIPING PLOVER (R6): pr LWMA mid-May abandoned after nest failed.

Killdeer: arr T Canton 1 Mar.

Upland Sandpiper: arr FD 28 Apr; two locations T Orleans 9 May (RB) & 29 May (JM, LS) only reports away from Fort Drum.

Dunlin: 2 ED 21 May.

Least Sandpiper: arr RS 14 May; max 19 FdIP 24 May.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr & max 8 PilPt 18 May.

American Woodcock: arr FD 11 Mar.

Wilson's Snipe: arr T Canton 23 Mar.

Spotted Sandpiper: arr LWMA 28 Apr.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr T Croghan 1 May.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr MP 8 May.
WILLET (R6): ED 15 May (RS).
Greater Yellowlegs: arr PRWMA 1 Apr.
Wilson's Phalarope: ULLWMA 8 May (TA).
Bonaparte's Gull: max 31 ChB 6 Apr.
Ring-billed Gull: scarce before 11 Mar.
Herring Gull: max 300 BI 13 Mar.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: BPWMA 6 May only report (AK).
Great Black-backed Gull: max 8 BI 13 Mar.
Caspian Tern: arr SBSP 8 Apr.
Black Tern: arr ULLWMA 4 May.
Common Tern: arr WHWMA 23 Apr.

LOONS – PARAKEET

Common Loon: arr RWSP 17 Mar; scarce before 3 Apr.
Double-crested Cormorant: arr PtPen 27 Mar.
American Bittern: arr FD 7 Apr.
Least Bittern: arr PRWMA 7 May.
Great Blue Heron: arr ULLWMA 13 Mar.
Great Egret: arr Murphy Is 4 Apr.
Green Heron: arr ULLWMA 4 May.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr Murphy Is 11 Apr.
GLOSSY IBIS (R6): PRWMA 21 May (RB, BM); multiple late reports with poor photos of *Plegadis* ibis PtPen mid-late May lacked details for id to sp.
Black Vulture: L Ozonia 20 May (AM).
Turkey Vulture: arr CV 4 Mar.
Osprey: arr T Lyme 30 Mar.
Golden Eagle: imm T West Turin 9 Mar; 2 T Canton 11 Mar; 4 T Canton 12 Mar; ad FD 22 Mar.; T Canton 25 Mar; imm MM 14 Apr.
Northern Harrier: arr difficult to determine because of unusually large number overwintering birds.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 42 reports.
Cooper's Hawk: 42 reports.
Northern Goshawk: T Colton 22 Apr only report.
Bald Eagle: 2nd consecutive year pr on WHWMA nest platform displaced by Osprey; 6 other active nests reported to BBA.
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr T Madrid 11 Mar.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr T Croghan 18 Apr.
Rough-legged Hawk: last Grindstone Is 29 May (MB) only report after 12 May.
Eastern Screech-Owl: PtPen 13 Mar; CV 21 Mar; T Dekalb 8 Apr; T Oswegatchie 4 May; T Orleans 25 May; more than usual.
Snowy Owl: last FD 14 May bird picked up with wing injury and taken to rehabilitator; only report after 10 Apr.

Short-eared Owl: 5 PtPen 7 Mar; FD 25 Mar; Massena 7 Apr where 2 interacting 17 Apr (AR); only reports.
Long-eared Owl: Pinkney SF 26 May (RS) only report.
Northern Saw-whet Owl: FD 8 May only report.
Belted Kingfisher: arr CV 7 Mar; scarce before 25 Mar.
Red-headed Woodpecker: arr WBSP 2 May day before first noted on FD breeding grounds; T Brasher Falls 14 May only other location.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: overwintering bird KC to at least 6 Mar; arr FD 31 Mar.
American Kestrel: arr date obscured by unusually large number than successfully overwintered; apparent arr T Watertown 10 Mar.
Merlin: 50+ reports; increase continues.
Peregrine Falcon: Watertown 20 Apr; WHWMA 23 Apr; KC 27 Apr; T LWMA 28 Apr; ULLWMA 1 May; tearing apart Ring-billed Gull in center Murphy Is colony 8 May; only reports away from known or suspected nesting sites BI & downtown Watertown.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr FD 3 May.
Eastern Kingbird: arr FD 4 May.
Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr CLBS 23 May.
Eastern Wood-Pewee: arr T Hermon 15 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr MT 22 May.
Alder Flycatcher: arr CLBS 9 May (NG, RP) early, only report before 16 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr Murray Trail T Rodman 13 May.
Least Flycatcher: arr FD 3 May.
Eastern Phoebe: arr T Stockholm 23 Mar.
Northern Shrike: last T Lawrence 11 Apr.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr ICNC 2 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr Clarkson Univ 26 Apr.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr RS 7 May; only 2 other reports.
Warbling Vireo: arr ICNC & WBSP 2 May.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr RS 4 May.
Canada Jay: max 6 MM 9 May.
Blue Jay: max 97 T Watertown 4 May.
Horned Lark: max 30 T Lowville 9 Mar.
Purple Martin: arr ULLWMA 17 Apr.
Tree Swallow: arr RRT 21 Mar.
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: arr FD 14 Apr.
Bank Swallow: arr LWMA 28 Apr.
Cliff Swallow: arr T Waddington 1 May.

Barn Swallow: arr ULLWMA & T Madrid 17 Apr.
House Wren: arr RWSP & ULLWMA 25 Apr.
Winter Wren: arr FD 30 Mar.
Sedge Wren: 2 LWMA 17 May (RB, GL, JW) where 3 present 21-22 May (JB, JM, LS); only reports.
Marsh Wren: arr PRWMA 10 Apr; 3 T Clayton 14 Apr only other report before 25 Apr.
Carolina Wren: reports from 15 locations more than recent years.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr RWSP 29 Apr.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr FD 30 Mar record early; last away from Adirondacks ED & FD 17 May.
Eastern Bluebird: first obvious migrants FD 22 Mar.
Veery: arr FD 4 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr ULLWMA 13 May.
Hermit Thrush: arr T Colton 1 Apr record early.
Wood Thrush: arr T Glenfield 28 Apr.
Gray Catbird: arr LSBP 25 Apr.
Brown Thrasher: arr PRWMA 9 Apr.
Northern Mockingbird: arr FD 14 May.
Bohemian Waxwing: max 175 T Waddington 27 Mar; last 10 RRT 10 Apr; only 10 other reports.
Cedar Waxwing: max 60 RMSP 6 Mar.
American Pipit: arr FD 8 Apr; max 27 FD 4 May.
Evening Grosbeak: max 65 T West Turin feeder 12 Apr where last 19 May.
Pine Grosbeak: last ULLWMA 19 Mar.
Purple Finch: widespread low numbers thru.
Common Redpoll: last T Parishville & T West Turin feeders 28 Apr.
Hoary Redpoll: PtPen 3 Mar (MD); T Massena 7 Mar (DB); T Stockholm 13 Mar (AM); last T Canton 14 Mar; all at feeders.
Red Crossbill: T Canton 1 Apr (JA); ICNC 10 Apr (JB); RS 8 May (SS); only reports.
Pine Siskin: max 12 T Lowville 3 May; last T West Carthage 21 May.
Lapland Longspur: last 2 CV Mar.
Snow Bunting: max 350 CV 5 Mar; last 50 T Hammond 13 Mar.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: arr Red Barn Pres T Morristown 22 Mar (EW, early); scarce before 10 Apr.
American Tree Sparrow: last Black L & ICNC 2 May.

Chipping Sparrow: arr T Croghan 1 Apr; scarce before widespread arr 9 Apr.
Clay-colored Sparrow: arr FD 4 May.
Field Sparrow: arr FD 31 Mar.
Vesper Sparrow: arr FD 31 Mar.
Savannah Sparrow: arr T Hammond 3 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr FD 4 May.
Henslow's Sparrow: no reports.
Fox Sparrow: arr T Watertown 14 Mar; last RS 5 May.
Song Sparrow: unclear whether several reports thru mid-Mar winter survivors or new arr; first widespread influx 19-20 Mar.
Lincoln's Sparrow: no migrants noted before 6 May when 6 at MM nesting site.
Swamp Sparrow: arr AFWMA 28 Mar.
White-throated Sparrow: max 50 MT 11 May.
White-crowned Sparrow: continuing T West Carthage feeder thru at least 13 Mar; arr T Lowville 22 Apr.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 65 FD 8 Apr.
Bobolink: arr T Canton 1 May.
Eastern Meadowlark: arr RRT 11 Mar.
Orchard Oriole: arr CV 12 May.
Baltimore Oriole: arr T Lawrence 30 Apr.
Red-winged Blackbird: arr RRT 3 Mar.
Brown-headed Cowbird: arr T Canton 13 Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: arr T Orleans 14 Mar.
Common Grackle: arr RWSP 7 Mar.
Ovenbird: arr FD 29 Apr.
Louisiana Waterthrush: T Colton 13 May thru (EW); T Lorraine 16 May; LBSF 21 May (GS); Murray Trail T Rodman 29 May (SB, LCB); good showing.
Northern Waterthrush: widespread arr 28 Apr.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr FD 3 May.
Blue-winged Warbler: arr FD 3 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr FD & T Croghan 29 Apr.
PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (R6): FD 29 Apr.
Tennessee Warbler: arr BPWMA 2 May.
Orange-crowned Warbler: FD 4 May.
Nashville Warbler: arr ICNC 2 May.
Mourning Warbler: arr T Lorraine 16 May.
Common Yellowthroat: arr LWMA 30 Apr.
Hooded Warbler: StPt 17 May & Winona Expt Forest 21 May only reports.
American Redstart: arr T Watertown 3 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr KC 12 May; scarce.
Cerulean Warbler: arr T Dekalb 9 May.
Northern Parula: widespread arr 4 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr T Henderson 2 May.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr FD 4 May.
Blackburnian Warbler: arr FD 4 May.
Yellow Warbler: arr Lost Pond T Clifton 25 Apr; scarce before 2 May.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr T Henderson 2 May.
Blackpoll Warbler: arr PRWMA 13 May.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr RWSP 2 May.
"Yellow" Palm Warbler: arr MT & Sabattis Bog 9 Apr.
"Western" Palm Warbler: arr KC 28 Apr.
Pine Warbler: arr T Watertown 31 Mar.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr T Watertown 29 Mar.
Prairie Warbler: arr FD 4 May.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr RWSP 28 Apr.
Canada Warbler: arr Peavine Swamp 12 May.
Wilson's Warbler: arr FD 4 May; only report before 22 May.
Scarlet Tanager: arr T Canton 8 May.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr RSI 28 Apr.
Indigo Bunting: arr T Canton 8 May.

REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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Precipitation (melted equivalent) in March was between 1-2" for most of Region 7. The exceptions were the High Peaks Region, a large area astride the Clinton/Franklin County border, and the western edge of Hamilton County, all of which averaged from 2-3". Also excepted was the lower Champlain Valley which received no more than 1". Temperatures for the month were generally above average especially in the northern quarter of Region 7 and the northern Champlain Valley where they were 3-5° higher than normal. The central portion of the Region was 1-3° above average while the rest deviated from normal by less than a degree either way. Only the High Peaks were below normal by -1-3°.

These warm temperatures were reflected in the behavior of Lake Champlain's ice sheet. Again the lake did not freeze solid this year, which has become the norm rather than the exception. Significant reopening was noted from 10-12 March when the daytime temperatures reached 50°. This caused the ice in the north end of the lake to retreat from the Cumberland Head ferry dock to Treadwell Bay and almost disappear completely from Plattsburgh Bay. In the south, Willsboro seemed to go ice free overnight. From then on large patches of new open water appeared almost daily, notably north to Ile La Motte and the Chazy Riverlands. The lake was essentially ice free by the end of the month. Waterfowl concentrations were observed at Willsboro in the south but large stretches of open water discouraged concentration in the north.

April was generally a wet month. Overall most of Region 7 received 3-4" of

precipitation. The exceptions were the southern portion of the Region which received 4-5" and the northwestern section of Franklin County which was drier, averaging only 1-3". Overall April was a warm month in which the temperature averaged 1-3° above normal. However, much of Franklin County, a western segment of Clinton County, and the southeast corner of Hamilton County averaged 3-5° above normal.

In contrast May was a cold month. Most of Region 7 was 1-3° below normal. The only departure from this was an area in the west central section of the Region which was still colder at 3-5° below average. Precipitation for the month was heavy in the first week to ten days of the month, but overall averaged 2-3" for most of the Region. There were scattered areas that saw a heavier rainfall of 3-4" and two areas that were drier with 1-2", the northern Champlain Valley and the southern quarter of the Region.

The water level of Lake Champlain remained steady and unusually low at 94.5' for the first 10-12 days of March. Then the warm temperatures cited above caused significant snow melt which raised the level to 95.1' by 13 March where it leveled off once again. Rains at the end of the month into the beginning of April increased the level to 96.7' where it stayed with modest fluctuations until the first week of May, when heavy rains sent it to a high of 97.5'—a notably lower-than-normal springtime high. From there it began an almost linear decline to 96.1' on 31 May. At those levels in May the Laurin's Pool mud flats were exposed during the best part of the shorebird migration. Nonetheless, the variety and numbers of individuals reported were disappointing.

After being reported from Lake Alice over a ten week period in 2020, **Trumpeter Swan** returned to that lake in April this year, stayed to be photographed and then wasn't seen again. **Tufted Duck** was present at Ausable Point for almost three weeks in March. Though still a NYSARC reportable species, it has almost become a spring regular, having been seen in Region 7 in eight of the last ten years. And while not a species level rarity, an apparent **Tufted Duck x scaup sp. (hybrid)** was found and photographed in the large congregation of waterfowl off the Westport boat launch—a very rare hybrid combination and the first documented record, in eBird, in the Lake Champlain Basin. Three scoters were reported this season. Though this is not unusual for White-winged Scoter, **Surf and Black Scoters** are rare here in spring. The former appeared on eBird only twice in the past ten years and the latter not at all. (It is also possible that Black Scoter overwintered since it was seen in both January and February.) Two **Ruddy Ducks** seen in May added to the six sightings recorded on eBird since 2011. Two **Wilson's Phalaropes** discovered along Pardy Road in Clinton County marks the first detection of this species in Region 7 since 2011, which in turn was the first since 2002. A confirmed breeder in four separate years between 1993 and 2002, this phalarope was all but extirpated when the introduction of intensive farming practices destroyed its breeding habitat in 2003. There were two reports of **Snowy Egret** separated by over four miles and almost four weeks. Whether or not they were of the same bird was not determined. Sandhill Crane returned to its

breeding sites in the Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake areas. In addition, a single individual was photographed in the open farm fields just south of Crown Point State Historic site on 2 May. **Golden Eagle** was reported from three separate locations.

As expected, redpolls lingered following the past winter's historic irruption.

Two **Grasshopper Sparrows** were found at distinct locations in the vast hayfields along Whallons Bay Road, the same general vicinity in which a single individual with a swollen brood patch was found during summer 2020. The sparrows were regularly detected throughout the spring season, strongly indicating a viable breeding location in Region 7. Two sightings of **Orchard Oriole**, of one and two individuals respectively, doubled the number of spring sightings in the past decade. A **Prairie Warbler**, seen carrying food, was most likely the first confirmation of breeding for this species in Region 7. It was not confirmed in either of the two previous atlas periods. This quote from *Birds of Essex County, New York* (Carlton, Peterson), which suggests the possibility of breeding but does not claim it, is the only indication that it may have bred previously: "A small colony was discovered at Port Douglas in 1955." The **Dickcissel** found in May was the first spring report for the Region and only the fourth overall. All of the six additional records collected in the various Region 7 county publications were prior to 1976 and none was from Clinton or Hamilton Counties.

Winged warblers and their associated hybrid forms continued to be fairly well reported in Essex County's Champlain Valley region for a second year in a row. Informal, targeted detection efforts in areas of young, regenerating forest have turned up more reports since the 2020 spring season and 2021 was no exception. Golden-winged Warbler was found at three distinct locations and Blue-winged Warbler was located at four locations.

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ABBREVIATIONS

4MR – 4 Mile Rd; **AFB** – former Air Force Base; **AFk** – Ausable Forks; **AFR** – Altona Flat Rock; **AFT** – Art Farm Trail; **AM** – Ausable Marsh; **AP** – Ausable Pt; **APN** – Ausable Pt north of entrance; **BaR** – Barnaby Rd; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog; **BBB** – Bulwagga Bay Beach; **BC** – Belmont Center; **BHR** – Breed Hill Rd; **Bom** – Bombay; **BPNT** – Brewster Peninsula Nature Trails; **BRR** – Bull Rock Rd; **CB** – Cumberland Bay SP; **CF** – Carpenters Flats; **CH** – Cumberland Head; **Che** – Chesterfield; **CLk** – Charley L; **CP** – Crown Pt; **CR** – Chazy Riverlands; **DaR** – Davern Rd; **DMFT** – DaCY Meadow Farm Trail; **DRd** – Dunn Rd; **EC** – Essex Co; **EFP** – Everton Falls Pres; **ERT** – East River Trail; **Es** – Essex; **EWB** – Edgar Wadhams Homestead; **FCR** – Franklin Co. Rt 40; **Gab** – Gabriels; **GBM** – Gilbert Brook Marina; **HB** – Holsington Beach; **IL** – Intervale Lowlands; **ILk** – Indian L; **KB** – Kings Bay; **LA** – Lake Alice; **LCI** – Lake Clear; **LCTM** – Lower La Chute Ticonderoga Marsh; **LL** – Long L; **LPI** – Lake Pleasant; **LTL** – Little Tupper L; **McR** – MacAdam Rd; **MF** – Madawaska Flow; **MM** – Maple Meadows; **MRd** – Middle Rd; **NCCC** – North Country Community College; **NP** – Noblewood P; **OB** – Oseetah Bog; **OBa** – Oseetah Bay; **OH** – Owls Head; **PaR** – Pardy Rd; **PB** – Plattsburgh; **PC** – Putts Creek; **PCg** – Pond Cottage; **PD** – Port Douglas; **PH** – Port Henry; **Pi** – Piseco; **PiL** – Piseco L; **PL** – Paradox L; **PP** – Peent Palace; **PS** – Paul Smiths; **PtR** – Point Au Roche SP; **Put** – Putnam; **RL** – Raquette L; **RR** – Raquette Ri; **RRd** – Reynolds Rd; **SbB** – Sabattis Bog; **SC** – Sabattis Circle; **SCI** – Santa Clara; **SL** – Saranac L; **SP** – Speculator; **SRM** – Saranac Ri Mouth; **TG** – The Gulf; **TI** – Ticonderoga; **TL** – Tupper L; **VMt** – Vanderwhacker Mt; **VV** – Vermontville; **WA** – Whallonsburg; **WB** – Willsboro Bay; **WBR** – Whallons Bay Rd; **WD** – Wilcox Dock; **WM** – Wickham Marsh; **WMt** – Whiteface Mt; **WOF** Wild Orchard Farm; **WP** – Westport; **WPt** – Willsboro Pt; **WRS** – Webb Royce Swamp; **WRT** – Willsboro Riverside Trail.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: 410 RRd 11 Mar (NO); 2 .
Brant: 35 WD 20 May (SR).
Cackling Goose: WPt 21 Mar (DHR, ph)
TRUMPETER SWAN (R7): LA 26 Apr (BK, ABd), ph.
Wood Duck: arr, 5 LCTM 6 Mar (SR).
Blue-winged Teal: arr, 4 AP 22 Apr (SR).
Northern Shoveler: 5 LCI 5 May (SMc).
Gadwall: 3 SRM 4 Mar (SR).
American Wigeon: arr, 3 SRM 11 Mar (SR).
Northern Pintail: MM 1 Mar (SR).
Green-winged Teal: arr, LCTM 11 Mar (EG).
Canvasback: LCTM 9 Mar (SR).

Redhead: 3 WP 4 Mar (SR); KB 15 May (SR, CV).

Ring-necked Duck: 40 KB 24 Mar (JMi).

TUFTED DUCK: AP 13-31 Mar (MB, mo).

TUFTED DUCK X SCAUP SP. (hybrid):
WP 3-4 Mar (DHR, ph).

Greater Scaup: 1,300 KB 19 Apr (SR).

Lesser Scaup: 15 KB 19 Apr (SR).

Greater/Lesser Scaup: 4,000 WP 3 Mar (DHR).

Scaup sp: 1,800 KB 19 Apr (SR).

Surf Scoter: 2 LA 25 Apr (JO).

White-winged Scoter: 4 HB 5 May (DHR); 54 CB 15 May (DF).

Black Scoter: HB 23 Mar (RB), continuing.
Long-tailed Duck: arr, WP 4 Mar (SR), early; 12 BBB 5 May (SR).
Bufflehead: 50 AM 10 Apr (GH).
Common Goldeneye: 875 CP 28 Mar (SR); 14 GBM 20 May (SR), Co-FL.
Barrow's Goldeneye: 3 AFB 4 Mar (SR); 3 WP 9 Mar (SR); CH 20 Mar (BK).
Hooded Merganser: 34 AP 4 Mar (SR); IL 24 May (LM), Co-ON.
Common Merganser: 53 KB 24 Mar (JM).
Red-breasted Merganser: 19 NP 8 Apr (DHR).
Ruddy Duck: 2 KB 13 May (SR).
Ring-necked Pheasant: PtR 13 May (SR).
Ruffed Grouse: 6 DaR 23 May (JHo).
Wild Turkey: 35 Gab 12 Mar (EGr).
Pied-billed Grebe: arr, AFk 30 Mar (AS).
Horned Grebe: ILk 27 Mar (MMo); 13 WP 19 Apr (DHR).
Red-necked Grebe: WP 19 Apr (DHR).
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: BaR 31 May (SR).
Black-billed Cuckoo: arr, TI 16 May (NF, DE).
Common Nighthawk: arr, 2 AFR 14 May (ABd).
Eastern Whip-poor-will: arr, WP 12 May (SR).
Chimney Swift: arr, BBB 5 May (SR).
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr, Peru 3 May (DL).

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Virginia Rail: BHR 10 Apr (SR).
Common Gallinule: arr, APN 13 May (SR).
SANDHILL CRANE: arr, 2 OB 12 Apr (MG); CP 2 May (JMc); 2 TL 12 May (GD).
Black-bellied Plover: arr, NP 29 May (PL, SM), only report.
Semipalmated Plover: arr, 2 PaR 13 May (SR); CB 21 May (NO, MS).
Dunlin: arr, FCR 25 May (HW).
Ruddy Turnstone: CR 27 May (BK).
Least Sandpiper: arr, 7 PaR 13 May (SR).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: arr, PaR 15 May (CV).
Short-billed Dowitcher: 10 RL 19 May (CD).
American Woodcock: arr, WP 20 Mar (SR).
Wilson's Snipe: TL 31 Mar (GC).
Spotted Sandpiper: arr, PH 29 Apr (SR).
Solitary Sandpiper: arr, LCI 2 May (SMc).
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr, 3 PaR 8 May (AB).
Greater Yellowlegs: arr, 4 PaR 19 Apr (SR).
Wilson's Phalarope: 2 PaR 17 May (DHR).
Bonaparte's Gull: max, 127 BBB 6 May (DHR); arr, 2 BBB 11 Apr (SR).

Iceland Gull: WD 3 Mar (BMc).
Lesser Black-backed Gull: SRM 4 Mar (SR).
Glaucous Gull: WD 11 Mar (SR).
Great Black-backed Gull: 18 WD 3 Mar (BMc).
Caspian Tern: arr, 5 SB 1 Apr (SR).
Common Tern: arr, AP 19 Apr (JM).

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: WP 19 Apr (DHR).
Common Loon: TL 31 Mar (AD).
Double-crested Cormorant: arr, WP 22 Mar (RB); 500 BBB 24 Apr (SR).
American Bittern: arr, BB 2 Apr (AD).
Great Blue Heron: 28 EWH 22 May (CV).
Great Egret: RR 3 Apr (AR).
SNOWY EGRET (R7): PB 18 -21 Apr (TF, mo); PaR 15 May (SR, CV).
Green Heron: arr, MM 29 Apr (SR).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 2 AM 2 May (DL).
Black Vulture: 3 MM 27 Apr (SR).
Turkey Vulture: 50 NCCC 30 Mar (JHo).
Osprey: arr, AP 22 Mar (JM).
GOLDEN EAGLE (R7): EFP 10 Apr (TW); CF 20 Apr (DR); WB 20 Apr (LS).
Northern Harrier: 4 MRd 30 Mar (SR).
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 2 BRR 21 Mar (MC).
Cooper's Hawk: AM 31 Mar (JB).
Northern Goshawk: 2 TI 18 Mar.
Bald Eagle: 8 LCTM 11 Mar (EG); 2 OH 19 Mar (JT).
Red-shouldered Hawk: AP 27 Mar (AB).
Broad-winged Hawk: arr, BB 19 Apr (CV).
Red-tailed Hawk: 3 LCTM 9 Mar (EG).
Rough-legged Hawk: 3 Es 14 Mar (DHR).
Eastern Screech Owl: PC 2 Apr (SR).
Great Horned Owl: 2 TI 29 May (SR).
Barred Owl: 3 BB 8 May (JS).
Northern Saw-whet Owl: BRR 20 Mar (G&MC).
Belted Kingfisher: 3 LA 2 May (KA).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 3 Es 15 May (OS).
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: arr, CP 20 Mar (SR).
Black-backed Woodpecker: 2 SbB 7 Apr (GD).
Northern Flicker: 12 IL 10 Apr (SK).
Pileated Woodpecker: 3 WM 31 Mar (DHR).
American Kestrel: 2 Peru 14 May (KC); KB 30 May (NO, MS).
Merlin: 2 PB 4 Apr (KMc).
Peregrine Falcon: 2 Che 21 May (TD).

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr, CP 5 May (OS).
Eastern Kingbird: arr, WA 5 May (DHR).
Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr, 4 VMt 24 May (BC).
Eastern Wood-Pewee: arr, TI 16 May (NF, DE).
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr, 5 ERT 20 May (DS).
Alder Flycatcher: arr, VV 13 May (JP).
Willow Flycatcher: arr, TI 19 May (G&MC).
Least Flycatcher: arr, Pi 5 May (CK).
Eastern Phoebe: arr, WPt 25 Mar (DHR).
Northern Shrike: AP 20 Mar (VR).
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr, PiL 9 May (GC).
Blue-headed Vireo: arr, TI 17 Apr (GC).
Philadelphia Vireo: arr, TG 8 May (BB).
Warbling Vireo: arr, CLk 28 Apr (JWM).
Red-eyed Vireo: arr, EAW 28 Apr (GL).
Canada Jay: 4 MF 28 May (CB).
Fish Crow: arr, 4 ScL 12 Mar (G&MC).
Common Raven: 5 Gab 27 Apr (EGr).
Horned Lark: 12 AP 4 Mar (DvZ).
Purple Martin: arr, LA 8 May (AB).
Tree Swallow: arr, 12 AP 27 Mar (AB).
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: arr, LCTM 27 Apr (SR).
Bank Swallow: arr, BBB 5 May (SR).
Cliff Swallow: arr, 3 WP 29 Apr (DHR).
Barn Swallow: arr, TFBL 2 Apr (SR).
Boreal Chickadee: 4 Gab 28 May (GB).
Tufted Titmouse: 5 DMF 1 Apr (RB).
Brown Creeper: DaR 13 May (SR), Co-CN.
House Wren: arr, 2 CP 1 May (SR).
Winter Wren: 5 BPNT 25 Apr (CP).
Marsh Wren: arr, 4 LCTM 27 Apr (SR).
Carolina Wren: MM 24 May (SR), Co-NB.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr, WM 8 May (SR).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 9 WM 31 Mar (DHR).
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr, WP 24 Mar (OS).
Veery: arr, CP 7 May (SR).
Gray-checked Thrush: BB 13 May (EK).
Bicknell's Thrush: arr, 4 Wmt 26 May (RH).
Swainson's Thrush: arr, SCI 13 Apr (TW).
Hermit Thrush: arr, CP 6 Mar (SR).
Wood Thrush: arr, WP 1 May (ML).
Gray Catbird: arr, PiL 29 Apr (JWM).
Brown Thrasher: arr, LPI 2 Apr (SF).
Northern Mockingbird: 3 SRM 17 May (Mct).
Cedar Waxwing: 23 WP 29 Mar (JS).
American Pipit: arr, EC 13 Mar (RB).
Evening Grosbeak: 33 SL 2 May (JS).

Purple Finch: 16 PP 8 May (RC).
Common Redpoll: 90 SL 26 Mar (AB); last, 4 May SL (JP).
Common Redpoll (rostrata/islandica): 5 BB 13 Mar (DY, CY).
Hoary Redpoll: CP 3 Mar (SR); BB 13 Mar (DY).
Red Crossbill: 15 CP 16 Mar (SR).
Red Crossbill (type 10): CWCC 7 Mar (JB); 13 CP 20 Mar (SR).
White-winged Crossbill: PtR 12 May (KA).
Snow Bunting: SC 7 Apr (GD).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: arr, AFR 14 Apr (KA).
American Tree Sparrow: 7 LCTM 9 Mar (SR).
Chipping Sparrow: arr, 2 AFk 24 Mar.
Field Sparrow: SL 29 Mar (AB).
Vesper Sparrow: arr, 5 SC 7 Apr (GD).
Savannah Sparrow: arr, WRS 8 Apr (RB).
GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (R7): max 2 WBR 18 May thru (DHR, ph).
Fox Sparrow: arr, PL 24 Mar (EG).
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr, OBa 9 May (JS).
Swamp Sparrow: arr, LCTM 9 Mar (SR).
White-throated Sparrow: 20 DMFT 29 Apr (RB).
White-crowned Sparrow: arr, SL 28 Apr (JP).
Bobolink: arr, CP 7 May (SR).
Eastern Meadowlark: arr, CP 20 Mar (SR).
ORCHARD ORIOLE (R7): WP 13 May (RB); 2 Put 22 May (G&MC).
Baltimore Oriole: arr, CP 7 May (SR).
Brown-headed Cowbird: 8 CP 8 May (BMc, JB).
Red-winged Blackbird: arr, LCTM 9 Mar (SR).
Rusty Blackbird: arr, ILk 11 Mar (MMo).
Ovenbird: arr, MM 3 May (SR).
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr, PC 3 May (SR).
Northern Waterthrush: arr, MM 28 Apr (SR).
Golden-winged Warbler: AFT 22-27 May (DHR, mo); WRS 22 May (SR, CV); WOF 25 May (DHR).
Blue-winged Warbler: arr, WRS 18 May (SR); WOF 25 May (DHR); 2 WRT 21 May (DHR); AFT 22 May (DHR).
Brewster's Warbler: arr, WRS 18 May (SR).
Golden-winged x Blue-winged Warbler (hybrid): WP 10 May (DHR).
Black and White Warbler: arr, MM 1 May (SR).
Tennessee Warbler: arr, MM 16 May (SR).

Nashville Warbler: arr, BBB 29 Apr (SR).
Mourning Warbler: arr, PCg 20 May (JP).
Common Yellowthroat: arr, ILk 24 Apr (MMo).
American Redstart: arr, PD 6 May (OS).
Cape May Warbler: arr, LCI 9 May (SMc).
Cerulean Warbler: 4MR 30 May (BB), rare.
Northern Parula: arr, OB 5 May (MG).
Magnolia Warbler: arr, CP 8 May (JS).
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr, BC 7 May (N&WR).
Blackburnian Warbler: arr, MM 2 May (SR).
Yellow Warbler: arr, 3 LA 2 May (BK, KA).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr, McR 8 May (SR).
Blackpoll Warbler: arr, LL 16 May (EW).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr, WP 4 May (RB).
Palm Warbler: arr, PS 9 Apr (BMc).
Pine Warbler: arr, MM 1 Apr (SR), early.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr, AP 3 Apr (JD).
Prairie Warbler: AFR 28 May (DHR), ph.
Black-throated Green Warbler: arr, SP 28 Apr (JWM).
Canada Warbler: arr, MM 16 May (SR).
Wilson's Warbler: arr, LTL 17 May (GD); KB 28 May (DL).
Scarlet Tanager: arr, Bom 8 May (TW).
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr, Es 1 May (GC).
Indigo Bunting: arr, Peru 15 May (KC).
DICKCISSEL (R7): WBR 18 May (SR).

REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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	Albany			Glens Falls		
Temp	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Mar	36.4°	35.0°	+1.4°	34.1°	31.3°	+2.8°
Apr	46.7°	47.8°	-1.1°	45.8°	44.6°	+1.2°
May	55.6°	59.6°	-4.0°	55.8°	56.5°	-0.7°
Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Mar	1.79"	3.21"	-1.42"	1.19"	2.94"	-1.75"
Apr	3.92"	3.17"	+0.75"	3.64"	3.00"	+0.64"
May	3.07"	3.41"	-0.34"	1.96"	3.35"	-1.39"

The weather in March 2021 was warmer and drier than normal. Unlike many years when temperatures are slow to warm and snowfall lingers on the ground, there was a warm spell before mid-month, and a prolonged well-above normal period during the fourth week of the month. Most remarkably, less than one inch of snow fell, that on the first day of March, and it was gone two days later with no more to come at Albany. The first half of April continued the warmer than normal pattern, but a reversal occurred thereafter, resulting in an upside-down feel to the period. The first ten days of May were downright dismal, with well below average temperatures. Precipitation fell on most days. This weather pattern clearly affected northward migration by many species, and only after more normal conditions returned mid-month were some first-of-season birds reported. Even the

end of the month was not immune to the wild swings back-and-forth as temperatures over the last four days of May averaged seventeen degrees below normal.

There were two ‘birds-of-the-season’ this spring. On 12 March, David DiSiena found an odd-looking goose among a large group of Canada Geese along the Hudson River in Melrose, Rensselaer County. He carefully observed and photographed the bird and concluded that it was a Pink-footed Goose, which is a rare but regular visitor to the Atlantic coast of New England, and adjacent inland areas. Two days hence, several birders were scanning goose flocks in nearby fields when Cathy Graichen found what she initially considered to be a Pink-footed Goose, and photographs were taken and shared among the birding community. It then became apparent that this was a bean-goose, and the consensus was **Tundra Bean-Goose**. Subsequent images documented by multiple observers confirmed the identification, and NYSARC has accepted this first state record (w. D’Anna, pers. comm.). The bird was last seen on 16 March. Based on analysis of the many photographs obtained of the goose, some astute observers concluded this was likely the same individual seen in Ontario, Canada in November 2020, which then moved south and overwintered in and around Philadelphia, Pennsylvania into early 2021. Ironically, with all the goose scrutiny that followed the initial sighting, a **Pink-footed Goose** was in fact found in the same area on 15 March.

John Hershey found New York State’s first **Violet-green Swallow** on 22 April, but only by follow up photo-analysis of many images he had made earlier in the morning. Once he viewed the bird on his computer screen, he immediately got the word out to the birding community, and birders near and not-so-near arrived for the next twenty-four hours to relocate the swallow, which unfortunately was not sighted again.

Waterfowl were able to arrive earlier than normal and move through quite quickly to points north and west of the Region this season. Canvasback and Redhead ducks continue to be hard to find in Region 8, perhaps due to population shifts or migration routes. White-winged Scoter and Long-tailed Duck sightings remain infrequent but apparently stable compared to recent seasons. Horned Grebe and Red-necked Grebe were observed in higher numbers and at more locations than usual.

Eastern Whip-poor-will was reported from a few locations outside their remaining strongholds in the area, which is encouraging. Sandhill Cranes were seen in four different counties; perhaps there is already a small group of breeders present? Seems like it will just be a matter of time before that is confirmed. A **Red-necked Phalarope** was observed at a farm pond in Ghent, Columbia County, on 20 May. Unfortunately, a dog found it as well and it was deceased within an hour. Identification was documented with photos. Migrating Black Terns were seen at Hudson, Columbia County on 6 May, and at Black Creek Marsh, Albany County on 15 May.

Glossy Ibis continue to find their way up the Hudson River corridor. They seem to be found annually in recent years. Two were discovered foraging in the flooded farm field between Stillwater Riverfront Park and Wrights Loop in Saratoga County on 18 April. A single bird was present at Bog Meadow Brook on 18 May, also in Saratoga County. On that same day, a single Glossy Ibis was seen flying south down the Hudson River from Henry Hudson Park in Albany County. A very interesting and well documented observation of a **Mississippi Kite** was received from eastern Columbia County on 20 April. Snowy Owls were present in two locations, the longest staying of which was the bird near Summit, Schoharie County. The farm property owner stated that the bird had been present since March, and it was still being seen at the end of May. Another Snowy Owl was observed in Hampton, Washington County, just inside the New York State border with Vermont. It was moving around that locale from mid-March until early April.

A Red-headed Woodpecker was photographed at a suet feeder in Tannersville, Greene County on 16 May. T. Lloyd Williams recorded a **Boreal Chickadee** in Partridge Run WMA, Albany County, over two weekends in late March/early April. This appears to be part of a small irruption of the species in southern Vermont and New Hampshire, as well as northwestern Massachusetts, since last November. A singing Gray-cheeked Thrush spent the day in a backyard in Westmere, Albany County on 21 May. The irruptive winter finches continued to be seen into April and even early May in some areas, although Pine Grosbeak was the first to retreat towards their normal range. Clay-colored Sparrows were noted in two locations in Montgomery County, including a spot where at least two spent the breeding season last year. A **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was discovered in a large flock of migrating icterids in Saratoga County, in farm country between the City of Saratoga Springs and the Village of Schuylerville, but it was a one-day wonder on 17 March. Another Yellow-headed Blackbird was present at Albany International Airport on 16 May and was viewed on the ground and the perimeter fence, from close range, by multiple observers. Good find there by Frank Mitchell.

There were Golden-winged Warblers reported in two locations this season. There continues to be an apparent enclave of 'pure' birds in the northern portion of Washington County northeast of Whitehall, along with hybrids/intergrades nearby. A migrating Golden-winged Warbler was also observed on 3 May at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve-Great Dune unit. Hooded Warbler was reported from three counties in the Region in May, including likely returning breeders in Altamont, Albany County. This Regional reporter encountered a singing **Kentucky Warbler** on 21 May, at the previously mentioned Albany Pine Bush Preserve-Great Dune location. Sound recordings were made to confirm the identification.

242 species were reported during the period.

CONTRIBUTORS

Jorn Ake, Larry Alden, Ramona Bearor, Susan Beaudoin, Mike Birmingham, Nancy Castillo, Glen & Malinda Chapman, Steve Chorvas, Jeremy Collison, Bill Cook, Brianna Denoncour, Alan Devoe Bird Club recent sightings, Amanda Dillon, David DiSiena, Craig Driggs, Bruce Dudek, Alan Dupuis, Lindsey Duval, Scott Fackenthall, Larry Federman, Debra Ferguson, Mark Fitzsimmons, Rich Guthrie, HMBirds Yahoo Group, Larry & Barbara Hall, David Harrison, Ron Harrower, John Hershey, John Kent, Nancy Kern, Bill Lee, Naomi Lloyd, Tristan Lowery, Larry Main, Alan Mapes, Leigh McBride, Thom McClenahan, Jay McGowan, Steve Mesick, Joyce Miller, Frank Mitchell, Frank Murphy, Jenny Murtaugh, Ellen Pemrick, Will Raup, Gregg Recer & Cathy Graichen, Neal Reilly, Stacy Robinson, John Roosenberg, Jeanette Roundy, Kathy Schneider, Zach Schwartz-Weinstein, John Shea, Marian Sole, George Steele, Scott Stoner, Scott Sumner, Craig Thompson, Alison Van Keuren, Phil Whitney, Tom & Colleen Williams, Will Yandik, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

APBP – Albany Pine Bush Pres, ALBA; **AR** – Alcove Res, ALBA; **BCM** – Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; **BCR** – Basic Creek Res, ALBA; **BMB** – Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail, SARA; **CCGP** – Cocksackie Creek Grasslands Pres, GREE; **CF** – Cohoes Flats, ALBA; **CL** – Collins L, SCHE; **CRM** – Cline Rd. Marsh, FULT; **FR** – Five Rivers EEC, ALBA; **FtEG** – Ft. Edward Grasslands, WASH; **FV** – Franklinton Vlaie, SCHO; **HP** – Huyck Pres, ALBA; **OCA** – Ooms Conservation Area, COLU; **PRWMA** – Partridge Run WMA, ALBA; **SNHP** – Saratoga National Historical P, SARA; **TR** – Tomhannock Res, RENN; **VFNHP** – Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Pres, SARA; **WMP** – Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary, COLU.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: max 110 Schodack RENS 25 Mar.

Greater White-fronted Goose: Stillwater SARA 11-20 Mar; Glen MONT 30 Mar- 22 Apr.

TUNDRA BEAN-GOOSE: Melrose RENS 12 Mar (DD); presumably same bird Saratoga L Marine P SARA 14 Mar (CG), *intro*, *NYSARC*.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: Stillwater SARA 15 Mar. (JMcG), *intro*.

Brant: max 250 Coeymans Landing ALBA 15 May; Selkirk ALBA 24 May.

Canada Goose: max 10,000 Schaghticoke RENS 15 Mar.

Mute Swan: max 5 BCR 8 May.

Wood Duck: max 45 Fish Creek Marina SARA 16 Mar.

Blue-winged Teal: max 14 Coveville SARA 30 Mar.

Northern Shoveler: max 5 Glen MONT 1 Apr.

Gadwall: max 25 VFNHP 15 Mar.

American Wigeon: max 28 Wrights Loop SARA 3 Apr.

Mallard: max 398 Champlain Canal Lock 2 SARA 8 Mar.

American Black Duck: max 115 Hudson Pointe NP WARR 16 Mar.

Northern Pintail: max 35 Cambridge WASH 2 Apr.

Green-winged Teal: max 200 Coveville SARA 30 Mar.

Canvasback: max 2 Clermont COLU 9 Mar.

Redhead: max 5 Rexford SARA 11 Mar.
Ring-necked Duck: max 276 Clermont COLU 9 Mar.
Greater Scaup: max 75 Saratoga L SARA 18 Mar.
Lesser Scaup: max 60 Saratoga L Marine P SARA 17 Mar.
Surf Scoter: Coxsackie Boat Launch GREE 10 Mar, only report.
White-winged Scoter: max 8 Ballston L SARA 4 May.
Long-tailed Duck: 5 Saratoga L SARA 28 Apr; 4 Schaghticoke RENS 29 Apr; 2 Round L SARA 26 Apr; 2 Collins L SCHE 12 Apr.
Bufflehead: max 92 BCR 4 Apr.
Common Goldeneye: max 100 Blockhouse P SARA 13 Mar.
Hooded Merganser: max 50 Collins L SCHE 16 Mar.
Common Merganser: max 846 TR 23 Mar.
Red-breasted Merganser: max 5 TR 24 Mar.
Ruddy Duck: max 56 BCR 11 Apr.
Ruffed Grouse: max 3 Hague WARR 12 Apr; 3 Berne ALBA 24 Apr.
Wild Turkey: max 90 Schaghticoke RENS 16 Mar.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 2 mult loc.
Horned Grebe: max 20 Saratoga L SARA 28 Apr.
Red-necked Grebe: max 12 Saratoga L SARA 28 Apr.
Rock Pigeon: max 230 SUNY Cobleskill SCHO 6 Mar.
Mourning Dove: max 45 Coveville SARA 30 Mar.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: arr VFNHP 8 May; max 3 Deer Mt Nature Trail ALBA 21 May, Hague WARR 27 May.
Black-billed Cuckoo: arr APBP 10 May; max 3 Ancram COLU 18 May.
Common Nighthawk: arr Consaul Rd, Colonie ALBA 15 May; max 13 Ancram COLU 26 May.
Eastern Whip-poor-will: arr Loughberry L SARA 28 Apr; max 8 Malta Tech P SARA 8 May.
Chimney Swift: arr Normanskill Farm ALBA 17 Apr; max 100 Amsterdam MONT 1 May.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: arr Spencertown COLU 29 Apr.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Virginia Rail: arr Drowned Lands Cons Area COLU 3 Apr; max 9 BCM 5 May.
Sora: arr BCM 13 Apr; max 8 Drowned Lands Cons Area COLU 13 May.

Common Gallinule: arr BCM 19 Apr; max 3 Clemons Marsh WASH 15 May.
American Coot: arr Fish Creek Marina SARA 6 Mar.
Sandhill Crane: 3 Claverack COLU 7 Apr; Ft Edward State Boat Launch SARA 16 Mar; BCM 24 Apr; Grafton RENS 15 May.
Black-bellied Plover: 2 CF 29 May, only report.
Semipalmated Plover: arr Schoharie Crossing Boat Launch MONT 12 May; max 8 CF 19 May.
Killdeer: max 16 Staats Island Rd RENS 28 Mar.
Upland Sandpiper: Glen MONT 3 May, only report.
Ruddy Turnstone: Schodack I SP RENS 22 May, only report.
Dunlin: Stillwater Riverfront P SARA 19 Apr; Fultonville MONT 19 May.
Least Sandpiper: arr Ghent COLU 3 May; max 26 Stillwater Riverfront P SARA 15 May.
Pectoral Sandpiper: 3 CF 17 May; 2 Wrights Loop SARA 6 May.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 3 BMB 20 May.
Short-billed Dowitcher: 2 Babcock L RENS 19 May; Fultonville MONT 18 May.
American Woodcock: max 10 Ancram COLU 20 Mar.
Wilson's Snipe: arr Drowned Lands Cons Area COLU 24 Mar; max 26 Wrights Loop SARA 8 Apr.
Spotted Sandpiper: arr Betar Byway SARA 14 Apr; max 8 mult loc.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr Staats Island Rd RENS 24 Apr; max 28 Ida L RENS 13 May.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr Wrights Loop SARA 18 Apr; max 10 CF 19 May.
Greater Yellowlegs: arr Charleston MONT 13 Apr; max 21 Stillwater Riverfront P SARA 4 May.
Red-necked Phalarope: Ghent farm pond COLU 20 May.
Bonaparte's Gull: arr Henry Hudson P ALBA 27 Mar; max 75 Saratoga L SARA 12 May.
Ring-billed Gull: max 400 Saratoga L Marine P SARA 14 Mar.
Herring Gull: max 173 Cohoes ALBA 3 Mar.
Iceland Gull: 2 Fultonville MONT 15 Mar.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: 2 Fultonville MONT 15 Mar; Saratoga L Marine P SARA 16 Mar.
Glaucous Gull: Fultonville MONT 11 Mar; Cohoes ALBA 15 Mar.

Great Black-backed Gull: max 40 Cohoes ALBA 5 Mar.
Caspian Tern: TR 11 Apr; Fish Creek Marina SARA 18 Apr.
Black Tern: 2 BCM 15 May; Stockport COLU 6 May;

LOONS – PARAKEET

Common Loon: max 35 Saratoga L SARA 2 May.
Double-crested Cormorant: arr Cossackie Boat Launch GREE 12 Mar; max 213 South Bay WASH 21 Apr.
American Bittern: arr BCM 7 Apr; max 5 Clemons Marsh WASH 15 May.
Least Bittern: arr Drowned Lands Cons Area COLU 29 Apr; max 3 VFNHP 15 May, BCM 15 May.
Great Blue Heron: max 30 Surrender March Trail (heronry) SARA 3 Apr.
Great Egret: arr Drowned Lands Cons Area COLU 8 Apr; max 4 mult loc.
Green Heron: arr Woodlawn Pres SCHE 13 Apr; max 5 FR 22 May.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: arr Schodack I SP RENS 20 Apr; max 2 Clemons Marsh WASH 15 May.
Glossy Ibis: 2 Stillwater Riverfront P SARA 18 Apr; Henry Hudson P ALBA 18 May; BMB 18 May.
Black Vulture: max 32 Hudson COLU 26 Apr.
Turkey Vulture: max 53 Copake COLU 10 Mar.
Osprey: arr Schaghticoke RENS, Putnam Sta WASH 26 Mar.
Golden Eagle: Hague WARR 9 Mar; Glen MONT 15 Mar; Stillwater SARA 15 Mar; Knox Wetland ALBA 21 Mar; Guilderland ALBA 27 Mar; Oppenheim FULT 1 Apr; L George WARR 2 Apr; Stuyvesant COLU 3 Apr.
Northern Harrier: max 4 FtEG 21 Mar.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 2 mult loc.
Cooper's Hawk: max 2 mult loc.
Northern Goshawk: No reports.
Bald Eagle: max 23 Germantown Boat Launch COLU 2 Apr.
MISSISSIPPI KITE: Hillsdale COLU 20 Apr (JA), *intro*.
Red-shouldered Hawk: arr Schodack RENS 9 Mar.
Broad-winged Hawk: arr Grafton RENS 9 Apr; max 9 Landis Arboretum SCHO 24 Apr.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 5 Kingsbury WASH 21 Mar.

Rough-legged Hawk: last Sprakers MONT 23 Mar.
Eastern Screech-Owl: max 2 Henry Hudson P ALBA 22 Mar.
Great Horned Owl: max 4 Sleepy Hollow L GREE 27 Apr.
Snowy Owl: Hampton WASH 20 Mar-17 Apr; E Worcester SCHO 27 May.
Barred Owl: max 5 Greenfield SARA 13 Apr.
Short-eared Owl: 10 FtEG 3 Mar; 4 W Cossackie GREE 10 Mar; Glen MONT 3 Apr; Overmountain Cons Area COLU 8 Mar; Livingston COLU 15 Mar; Stuyvesant COLU 8 Mar.
Northern Saw-whet Owl: Bolton Landing WARR 3 Mar; Clemons WASH 27 Mar; Pandanarum Swamp WARR 4 Apr.
Belted Kingfisher: max 4 mult loc.
Red-headed Woodpecker: Tannersville GREE 16 May, only report.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 11 VFNHP 6 May.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 11 SNHP 19 Apr, Rankan Grove Swamp MONT 16 May.
Downy Woodpecker: max 10 Stillwater SARA 13 Mar.
Hairy Woodpecker: max 6 mult loc.
Northern Flicker: max 10 Pineview Cem WARR 4 Apr.
Pileated Woodpecker: 6 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 12 May.
American Kestrel: max 6 FtEG 24 Apr.
Merlin: max 3 Silver Bay YMCA WASH 19 Apr.
Peregrine Falcon: max 2 mult loc.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: arr SNHP 28 Apr; max 9 SNHP 29 May.
Eastern Kingbird: arr Niskayuna SCHE 24 Apr; max 15 TR 15 May.
Olive-sided Flycatcher: OCA 15 May; Overmountain Cons Area COLU 16 May; Mt Tom SF WASH 18 May; Livingston COLU 19 May; Colonie ALBA 20 May; Boice Fam P SARA 22 May; Kinderhook COLU 24 May; Hague WARR 27 May; HH Rail Trail ALBA 31 May.
Eastern Wood-Pewee: arr BCM 8 May.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: arr Hillsdale COLU 17 May.
Alder Flycatcher: arr BMB 12 May; max 6 BMB 17 May.
Willow Flycatcher: arr Poestenkill RENS 8 May; max 8 BCM 31 May.

Least Flycatcher: arr Stillwater Riverfront P SARA 24 Apr; max 13 Hague WARR 27 May.
Eastern Phoebe: arr Guilderland ALBA 11 Mar; max 11 FR 3 Apr.
Northern Shrike: Putnam WASH 8 Mar; Ft Plain MONT 20 Mar; Clemons Marsh WASH 4 Apr.
Yellow-throated Vireo: arr Saratoga Springs SARA 25 Apr; max 8 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 15 May, VFNHP 20 May.
Blue-headed Vireo: arr Ann Lee Pd ALBA 17 Apr; max 13 Wilton Wildlife Pres SARA 29 Apr.
Philadelphia Vireo: Mt Tom SF WASH 17 May; Warren Co Bikeway WARR 19 May; Stratford FULT 31 May.
Warbling Vireo: arr Collins L SCHE 28 Apr; max 24 Hudson Crossing P SARA 11 May.
Red-eyed Vireo: arr CRM 4 May; max 31 Taconic SP COLU 27 May.
Blue Jay: max 80 BCM 2 May.
American Crow: max 403 FtEG 1 Mar.
Fish Crow: max 73 Consaul Rd, Colonie ALBA 11 May.
Common Raven: max 22 North-South L Campground GREE 10 Apr.
Horned Lark: max 150 Valley Falls RENS 4 Mar.
Purple Martin: arr SNHP 19 Apr; max 8 Saratoga Springs Waterfront P SARA 31 May.
Tree Swallow: arr Schaghticoke RENS 11 Mar; max 990 Schaghticoke RENS 2 Apr.
VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW: VFNHP 22 Apr (JH), *intro*, NYSARC.
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: arr VFNHP 22 Mar; max 50 Round L SARA 1 May.
Bank Swallow: arr Schaghticoke RENS 21 Apr; max 60 Schaghticoke RENS 29 May.
Cliff Swallow: arr Round L SARA 26 Apr; max 15 W Fulton SCHO 7 May.
Barn Swallow: arr New Scotland ALBA 7 Apr; max 250 Saratoga L SARA 4 May.
Black-capped Chickadee: max 48 Hand Hollow Cons Area COLU 7 Apr.
BOREAL CHICKADEE (R8): Partridge Run WMA ALBA 4 Apr.
Tufted Titmouse: max 28 Dwaas Kill NP SARA 14 Apr.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 28 Anchor Diamond P SARA 9 Apr.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 11 Grafton RENS 11 Apr.
Brown Creeper: max 12 Bozenkill Pres ALBA 19 Apr.

House Wren: arr Saratoga Spa SP SARA 18 Apr; max 13 SNHP 14 May.
Winter Wren: max 4 mult loc.
Marsh Wren: arr Drowned Lands Swamp Cons Area COLU 14 Apr; max 24 BCM 15 May.
Carolina Wren: max 5 mult loc.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: arr Mo-He-Con-Nuk NP ALBA 10 Apr; max 10 VFNHP 14 May.
Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 24 FR 1 May.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr FR 1 Apr; max 50 SNHP 28 Apr.
Eastern Bluebird: max 20 TR 10 Mar.
Veery: arr Henry Hudson P ALBA 1 May; max 24 Schodack I SP RENS 19 May.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: Guilderland ALBA 21 May, only report.
 Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush: RamsHorn-Livingston Sanc GREE 13 May; Olana SHS COLU 21 May.
Swainson's Thrush: arr Mountain Top Arboretum GREE 2 May; max 3 Plateau Mt GREE 28 May.
Hermit Thrush: arr Bear Swamp Pres ALBA 30 Mar; max 7 Veteran's Mem P SARA 22 Apr.
Wood Thrush: arr Guilderland ALBA 27 Apr; max 15 Schodack I SP RENS 9 May.
American Robin: max 140 Coeymans Hollow ALBA 2 Apr.
Gray Catbird: arr Burden Pd RENS 23 Apr; max 60 Schodack I SP RENS 19 May.
Brown Thrasher: arr FR 8 Apr; max 6 FR 5 May.
Northern Mockingbird: max 7 APBP 20 May.
European Starling: max 600 Glen MONT 7 Mar.
Bohemian Waxwing: 15 L George WARR 2 Apr, only report.
Cedar Waxwing: max 80 Richmondville SCHO 1 Apr.
House Sparrow: max 70 HH Rail Trail ALBA 6 Mar.
American Pipit: arr Glen MONT 7 Apr; max 50 Gerald B.H. Solomon Nat Cem SARA 17 May.
Evening Grosbeak: max 108 Summit SCHO 2 May.
Pine Grosbeak: max 19 Burnt Hills SARA 1 Mar.
House Finch: max 45 Hillsdale COLU 5 Mar.
Purple Finch: max 20 Ghent COLU 21 Apr.
Common Redpoll: max 150 Summit SCHO 5 Mar.

Red Crossbill: max 40 Schodack RENS 16 Mar.
White-winged Crossbill: max 20 Clifton P SARA 5 May.
Pine Siskin: max 73 Summit SCHO 30 Apr.
American Goldfinch: max 82 Ft Plain MONT 9 May.
Lapland Longspur: 3 Valley Falls RENS 4 Mar, only report.
Snow Bunting: last 2 FtEG 19 Mar; max 150 Hartford WASH 1 Mar.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: arr APBP 4 Apr; max 31 SNHP 18 May.
American Tree Sparrow: last Hudson Falls WARR 9 May.
Chipping Sparrow: arr Albany ALBA 28 Mar; max 47 Glens Falls Cem WARR 30 Apr.
Clay-colored Sparrow: Albany ALBA through 14 Apr, overwintered; FT Plain MONT 2 May; Florida MONT 31 May.
Field Sparrow: arr Ghent COLU 24 Mar; max 23 SNHP 28 Apr.
Vesper Sparrow: arr Normanskill Farm ALBA 8 Apr; max 5 Halfmoon T P SARA 22 Apr.
Savannah Sparrow: max 20 Halfmoon T P SARA 22 Apr.
Grasshopper Sparrow: arr Minden MONT 28 Apr; max 4 FtEG 8 May.
Fox Sparrow: arr Hillsdale COLU 11 Mar; max 6 FR 3 Apr.
Song Sparrow: max 91 Kingsbury WASH 8 Apr.
Lincoln's Sparrow: arr Hoosick RENS 2 May.
Swamp Sparrow: arr VFNHP 23 Mar; max 94 BMB 11 Apr.
White-throated Sparrow: max 250 FR 29 Apr.
White-crowned Sparrow: arr WMP 2 Mar; max 18 John Boyd Thacher SP ALBA 2 May.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 100 Saratoga Springs SARA 21 Apr.
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (R8): Saratoga Springs SARA 17 Mar (SSu); Albany Int Arpt ALBA 16 May (FMi), *intro*.
Bobolink: arr Overmountain Cons Area COLU 1 May; max 50 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 16 May.
Eastern Meadowlark: max 16 Amsterdam MONT 11 Apr.
Orchard Oriole: arr Nassau L RENS 30 Apr; max 4 APBP 29 May.

Baltimore Oriole: arr Ancram COLU 28 Apr; max 15 Schodack I SP RENS 9 May.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 12,000 Saratoga Springs SARA 17 Mar.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 4,000 Schuylerville Boat Launch SARA 4 Mar.
Rusty Blackbird: max 61 VFNHP 27 Apr.
Common Grackle: max 30,000 Saratoga Springs SARA 17 Mar.
Ovenbird: arr 28 Apr, mult loc; max 35 Schodack I SP RENS 24 May.
Worm-eating Warbler: arr New Forge SF COLU 3 May; max 5 Deer Mt Nature Trail ALBA 19 May.
Louisiana Waterthrush: arr FR 7 Apr; max 6 FR 7 May.
Northern Waterthrush: arr 26 Brant L WARR 26 Apr; max 7 BMB 20 May.
Golden-winged Warbler: arr APBP 3 May.
Blue-winged Warbler: arr FR 28 Apr; max 16 SNHP 15 May.
"Brewster's" Warbler: Whitehall WASH 23 May.
Black-and-white Warbler: arr 23 Apr, mult loc; max 14 Schodack I SP RENS 16 May.
Tennessee Warbler: arr Ballston SARA 5 May; max 7 Schodack I SP RENS 19 May.
Nashville Warbler: arr Delmar ALBA 28 Apr; max 6 Coopers Pd RENS 7 May.
Mourning Warbler: arr Normanskill Farm ALBA 9 May; max 2 Hague WARR 27 May.
KENTUCKY WARBLER (R8): APBP 21 May (TW), *intro*.
Common Yellowthroat: arr Knox Wetland ALBA 27 Apr; max 57 SNHP 18 May.
Hooded Warbler: arr Overmountain Cons Area COLU 4 May; max 3 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 3 May.
American Redstart: arr Drowned Lands Swamp Cons Area COLU 28 Apr; max 70 Schodack I SP RENS 16 May.
Cape May Warbler: arr FR 2 May; max 5 RamsHorn-Livingston Sanc GREE 14 May, Selkirk ALBA 15 May.
Cerulean Warbler: arr Hillsdale COLU 9 May; max 6 Schodack I SP RENS 22 May.
Northern Parula: arr Mayfield FULT 25 Apr; max 9 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 10 May.
Magnolia Warbler: arr Deer Mt Nature Trail ALBA 2 May; max 6 Schodack I SP RENS 19 May.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr L Nancy SARA 9 May; max 4 mult loc.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr Schor Cons Area COLU 24 Apr; max 9 Taconic SP COLU 27 May.

Yellow Warbler: arr RamsHorn-Livingston Sanc GREE 27 Apr; max 48 VFNHP 15 May.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: arr 2 May, mult loc; max 22 Boice Fam P SARA 21 May.

Blackpoll Warbler: arr APBP 8 May; max 8 Normanskill Farm ALBA 22 May.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr Schaghticoke RENS 22 Apr; max 8 Anchor Diamond P SARA 6 May.

Palm Warbler: arr Drowned Lands Swamp Cons Area COLU 4 Apr; max 20 VFNHP 16 Apr.

Pine Warbler: arr APBP 25 Mar; max 10 Wilton Wildlife Pres SARA 3 May.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr Schaghticoke RENS 6 Apr; max 60 Schaghticoke RENS 28 Apr, VFNHP 23 Apr.

Prairie Warbler: arr Ballston Creek Pres SARA 28 Apr; max 9 APBP 8 May.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Guilderland ALBA 10 Apr, early; max 10 BMB 2 May.

Canada Warbler: arr Albany ALBA 4 May; max 5 BMB 20 May.

Wilson's Warbler: arr Drowned Lands Swamp Cons Area COLU 7 May; max 2 Drowned Lands Swamp Cons Area COLU 15 May.

Scarlet Tanager: arr Overmountain Cons Area COLU 4 May; max 12 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 15 May.

Northern Cardinal: max 22 FR 21 Mar.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: arr Catskill GREE 24 Apr; max 16 APBP 13 May.

Indigo Bunting: arr Glenville SCHE 27 Apr; max 8 Deer Mt Nature Trail ALBA 19 May.

REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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March was warmer than normal with near record high temperatures. Most precipitation fell as rain, with just a few inches of snow, mostly in the higher elevations. Precipitation was again below normal with only 2.15" falling, 1.42" below average. There was a high of 80° F on 26 March and a low of 14° on 8 March, an average of 4.5° above normal. April was warmer and dryer than normal. There was a high of 84 ° on 28 April and a low of 20° on 3 April, resulting in an average of 60.8°, 1.53° above normal. There were 2.25" of precipitation, 1.53" below normal. May was dry through mid-month, with heavy rain on Memorial Day weekend. There was a high of 92° on 26 May and a low of 34° on 13 May (higher elevations experienced lower temps), the average temperature being 71.3°, 0.3° below normal. There were 4.33" of precipitation, 0.86" above normal. For the second year in a row, after a relatively mild start to the season, temperatures fell in late April and May. The recurring northwest winds made for only brief periods of migration with little movement between fronts, all resulting in a prolonged migratory season with lower numbers of birds in at least some areas.

On 4 March Claudius Feger spotted two Cackling Geese at James Baird State Park in Dutchess County and on 10 May Rob Stone located a late Cackling Goose at the Camel Farm in Orange County. On 9 March Linda Scrima identified a

Greater White-fronted Goose in the Orange County Black Dirt Region; the bird was seen for three days, but not thereafter. On 3 March Peter Schoenberger picked out an adult drake Barrow's Goldeneye off Kingston Point in Ulster County. This bird was among a flock of Common Goldeneye that already contained an adult female Barrow's Goldeneye continuing from the winter period.

Sandhill Cranes again visited our area with several reports from around the Region. The breeding pair returned to the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge and once again nested. A chick was confirmed late in May, and we anxiously awaited news of a successful fledging.

We had some interesting shorebirds around the Region this spring. On 27 May Jonathan Gold discovered two Whimbrel at Milton Point in Westchester County, rare in the Region; this was an excellent find. The two Purple Sandpipers that spent the winter at Piermont Pier continued at least until 10 March. Lastly, on 31 May the author was surprised by an adult male Wilson's Phalarope at Morningside Park, this only the second county record in his nearly thirty years of birding. This extremely cooperative bird remained the entire day and was viewed by all who came to see it.

An adult alternate Laughing Gull at Croton Point Park on 26 March was an early date. Another was seen at Edith G. Read on 9 April, a more typical arrival date. On 10 April Bruce Nott discovered a first basic Iceland Gull at the Newburgh Waterfront. The bird continued between there and the Beacon Waterfront through at least 17 April. There were several reports of Lesser Black-backed Gulls along the Hudson through the period. Terns had a nice showing this spring with five species recorded in the Region.

On 25 May Joyce Depew once again spotted the returning Yellow-crowned Night-Heron on VanBurenville Road in Orange County. This is the third year in a row that this species has been found there, attempting to breed. Will they be the successful this time? On 28 April Jimmy Gondek spotted three Glossy Ibis flying over Croton Point Park and was able to photograph them. On 29 April Mike Usai discovered a Glossy Ibis in Putnam Valley; this bird remained for several days and was seen by many. These were among the first of several reports during the period.

The long-staying **Ferruginous Hawk** in the Orange County Black Dirt Region was last reported 13 March.

The Northern Shrike seen sporadically during the winter in Sullivan County became easier to find in early March, remaining at least through the 14th.

The winter finch irruption continued well into spring with a concentration of Evening Grosbeaks in Sullivan County through 13 March. The unprecedented numbers of **Hoary Redpolls** in Sullivan, Ulster, and Dutchess Counties remained through at least mid March occurring among the many Common Redpolls. Red Crossbills came to light again at the Ashokan Reservoir in March continuing well into April, while Evening Grosbeaks moved through the Region well into May.

On 27 April Ginger Bernardin had a Clay-colored Sparrow make a brief visit to her yard.

On 11 March Karen Miller and Renee Davis spotted an adult male Yellow-headed Blackbird among a huge flock of blackbirds at the Camel Farm in the Orange County Black Dirt Region. The bird departed all too quickly and was not seen again.

On 20 May Scott Graber came upon a **Kentucky Warbler** on the Stop Sign Trail at the Bashakill. Typical of the species, it disappeared in the undergrowth and could not be found again. On 23 May the author spotted a Kentucky Warbler in the Orchard at the Bashakill, it too eluding further detection. It is quite likely the same bird Scott had seen previously.

On 4 May, Dawn Hannay saw a **Summer Tanager** in Rockefeller State Park. It was not seen thereafter.

On 20 April Debbie van Zyl had good views of an immature male Blue Grosbeak at her home in Wappingers Falls, Dutchess County. The bird remained only that day.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Apollo Plaza, SULL; **AR** – Ashokan Res, ULST; **BCF** – Blue Chip Farm, ULST; **BFAS** – Buttercup Farm Audubon Sanctuary, DUTC; **BMSP** – Bear Mountain SP, ROCK; **BP** – Browns Pd, ORAN; **BSWMA** – Bashakill State WMA, SULL; **CFSP** – Clarence Fahnestock SP, PUTN; **CIOES** – Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, DUTC; **CMACS** – Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary, PUTN; **CPP** – Croton Pt P, WEST; **CRS** – Croton Railroad Station, WEST; **DHCLP** – D and H Canal Linear P, SULL; **DR** – Doodletown Rd, ROCK; **DRT** – Dutchess Rail Trail, DUTC; **EGR** – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, WEST; **EMLH** – Esopus Meadows Light House, ULST; **FPNC** – Forsythe P and Nature Center, ULST; **GL** – Glenmere L, ORAN; **GMP** – Glasco Mini P, ULST; **GV** – Great Vly WMA, ULST; **HS** – Harcourt Sanctuary, ULST; **HVRT** – Harlem Valley Rail Trail, DUTC; **II** – Iona I, ROCK; **KL** – Kiamesha L, SULL; **KP** – Kingston Pt, ULST; **LGC** – Laurel Grove Cemetery, ORAN; **LM** – Liberty Marsh, ORAN; **LNP** – Lenoir Nature Pres, WEST; **LR** – Larchmont Res, WEST; **MC** – Marshlands Conservancy, WEST; **MF** – Muscoot Farm, WEST; **MP** – Morningside P, SULL; **MPHW** – Mount Peter Hawk Watch, ORAN; **MRCC** – Mariondale Retreat and Conference Center, **NCR** – New Croton Res, WEST; **NR** – Neversink Res, SULL; **NW** – Newburgh Waterfront, ORAN; **OCBDR** – Orange County Black Dirt Region, ORAN; **OINP** – Oscawana I Nature Pres, WEST; **OMRLMSP** – Ogden Mills and Ruth Livingston Mills SP, DUTC; **PHP** – Peach Hill P, DUTC; **PITN** – Pine Island

Turf Nursery, ORAN; **PP** – Piermont Pier, ROCK; **RLP** – Rhinecliff Landing Park, DUTC; **RLSP** – Rockland L SP, ROCK; **RNC** – Rye Nature Center, WEST; **RR** – Rondout Res, SULL; **RSP** – Rockefeller SP, WEST; **SFSP** – Sterling Forest SP, ORAN; **SGNWR** – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR, ULST; **SHSR** – Six and a Half Station Road, ORAN; **SS** – Sleightsburg Spit, ULST; **SSF** – Stewart State Forest, ORAN; **TBWMA** – Tivoli Bays WMA, DUTC; **THMUA** – Taconic-Hereford Multiple Use Area, DUTC; **VFEP** – Vassar Farms and Ecological Pres, DUTC; **WL** – Wickham L, ORAN; **WPFP** – West Pt Foundry Pres, PUTN; **WRNWR** – Wallkill Ri NWR, ORAN.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: max 56 OCBDR 1-20 Mar (LS, BN, GBen, mob); BSWMA 20 Apr (JCa, KMcD); Wurtsboro SULL 21 Apr (SB, JH, PD, RDe, KMi).

Greater White-fronted Goose: Rye Brook 1-2 Mar (GBen); OCBDR 9-11 Mar (LS, BN, RDa, KMi, mob), *intro*.

Brant: 85 Esopus ULST 7 May (DWe); 136 New Hamburg Yacht Club DUTC 13 May (DvZ); 4055 MRCC 13 May (CR).

Cackling Goose: 2 James Baird SP DUTC 4 Mar (CFe); Camel Farm ORAN 10 May (RSt, LS), *intro*.

Blue-winged Teal: max 2 SHSR 19-21 Mar (KA, RH, YH, mob); Esopus Bend Nature Pres ULST 21 Mar (LWei); max 2 Hurley ULST 24-25 Mar (DO, RG); 3 BSWMA 26 Mar (JH); 2 Lake Walton DUTC 29 Mar (MBh).

Northern Shoveler: max 10 EGR 1-25 Mar (GBen, KMcG, ASw, mob); 3 Steamboat Riverfront P WEST 3 Mar (LT, SR, GBer); max 3 CPP 6, 24 Mar (IW, KL, mob); max 6 BSWMA 7 Mar–20 Apr (SB, JH, KMi, mob); Wappingers L DUTC 12 Mar (LK); 2 Haverstraw Bay County P ROCK 15 Mar (AWel, LG); 4 Orange L ORAN 24-25 Mar (BN, YH); 3 CMACS 12 Mar (SSi).

Canvasback: max 28 PP 1-10 Mar (CW, ME, AWel, mob); NCR 1-7 Mar (KMcG, GBen, LT, mob); max 3 KP 3-5 Mar (BMi, SCam, FB, mob); 7 River Rd ULST 7 Mar (MO); BSWMA 10-21 Mar (JH, SB, KMi, SGr, mob); 2 Washington L ORAN 18 Mar (BN, JCav).

Redhead: 3 NCR 2-7 Mar (GBen, TBu, LO, mob); 5 Downing P Newburgh ORAN (KK, BN, MBu); Glenmere L ORAN 19 Mar (KA); Orange L 20 Mar (BN).

King Eider: EGR 8 May (KB, GBen, TBu).

Surf Scoter: max 2 EGR 5-6 Mar (GBen, KMcG, mob); Orange L 12 Apr (BN, KMi, KMcD, mob); EGR 10 Apr (GBen, TBu); 2

AR 19 Apr (PS, DO); max 5 WL 10 May (JCim, MZ, LS).

White-winged Scoter: 5 EGR 23 Mar (TBu, GBen); Cornwall Bay ORAN 15 Apr (YH); 4 AR 16 Apr (PS); 9 KL 5 May (MVD); 5 Toronto Reservoir SULL 5 May (SGr); 2 Wolf L SULL 5 May (JH); 8 AR 8 May (WT); Washington L 5 May (BN, JCav, KMi, JCim); 55 EGR 7 May (GBen, TB).

Barrow's Goldeneye: 2 KP 3-10 Mar (PS, BMa, BN, mob), *intro*.

Long-tailed Duck: CPP 1-9 Mar (SCam, SR, MM, mob); 112 EGR 24 Mar (GBen, TBu); max 20 Washington L 26 Mar (BN, JCav); 6 Orange L 26 Mar (BN, YH, JCim); EGR 29 Apr (GBen, TBu); EGR 8, 20 May (KB, GBen, TBu).

Red-breasted Merganser: max 23 EGR 1-20 Mar (GBen, KMcG, SCam, mob); 2 CPP 4 Mar (RLe); 4 KP 5 Mar (CAI); max 3 NCR 5-10 Mar (CR, LG, GBen); NW 3-8 Mar (YH); 2 Lake Carmel WEST 13 Mar (MBR, ASe, mob).

Ruddy Duck: WRNWR 12-13 Mar (CaIb, KMcG); max 4 GL 13-22 Mar (JCim, DWa, KA, mob).

Northern Bobwhite: Walden ORAN 18 May (JCim).

Ruffed Grouse: Kenneth Wilson Campground ULST 27 Mar-8 Apr (LQ, LWei, RG, mob); Minnewaska SP ULST 4 Apr (EH); Brook Rd SULL 8-9 Apr (PM).

Pied-billed Grebe: max 2 Kensico Res WEST 11-13 Mar (SCam, LWei); max 8 NCR 1-10 Mar (GBen, LT, CR, mob); SHSR 12-13 Mar (KA, RH); max 5 BSWMA 12 Mar-31 May (SB, KMi, PD, mob); Beaver Pd ORAN 13 Mar (KMi).

Horned Grebe: max 3 Beacon Waterfront DUTC 9-12 Mar (BN, BL); EMLH 9 Mar (MS, DH); Dockside P PUTN 11 Mar (KB, RSea, CR); max 2 BSWMA 14-20 Mar (JH, SB, KMi, mob); 2 EGR 29 Apr (JGol).

Red-necked Grebe: 2 Orange L 12-13 Apr (BN, KMcD, KA, mob); Washington L 13 Apr (BN); Orange L 18 Apr (BN).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: RNC 5 May (SR); SFSP 14-31 May (SCam, AWei, RMc, mob); max 3 BSWMA 15-31 May (GBen, TBu, JH, mob); max 3 Mohonk Pres ULST 26 May (SB, MBu).

Black-billed Cuckoo: SFSP 7-8 May (JGr, AVK, mob); Ulster P ULST 8 May (DT); PHP 9 May (SCar).

Common Nighthawk: Tuxedo ORAN 14 May (EF, TF); 3 BSWMA 15-18 May (SM, PL, JH, mob); 2 Irvington Woods WEST 15 May (JW); Somers Marsh WEST 15, 21 May (SCam, KB, MM, JAm); Long Dock P DUTC 17 May (KB, RSea); 27 BSWMA 25 May (SGr).

Eastern Whip-poor-will: 3 Harriman State P ORAN 23 Apr (LP); Mine Rd ORAN 29 Apr (YH); max 3 SFSP 29 Apr-8 May (JCim, SK, SR, mob); max 2 BSWMA 8 May (JH, LVe).

Chimney Swift: 2 Kingston ULST 20 Apr (NM); 12 Madame Brett P DUTC 21 Apr (MV); 3 Hillview Reservoir WEST 26 Apr (SCam).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Gibson Hill Rd ORAN 25 Apr (JS); Mount Airy WEST 26 Apr (KD).

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Clapper Rail: max 4 MC 8 Apr- 31 May (DJ, GBen, TBu, mob).

Virginia Rail: CPP 13 Mar (TS); Warwick ORAN 14 Mar (JS); 2 BSWMA 31 Mar (JH, PD); Somers Marsh 18 Apr-22 May (SCam, CR, MM, mob).

Sora: SHSR 19 Apr-24 May (JF, KA, MF, mob); max 2 WRNWR 24 Apr-31 May (MZ, BN, LS, mob); max 2 BSWMA 27 Apr-15 May (JH, BN, SB, mob); max 2 GV 28 Apr-9 May (Rmi, PS, DT, mob); Yorktown Bike Path Wetlands WEST 21 May (ASw); Somers Marsh 22 May (SCam, SR, SK).

Common Gallinule: max 4 BSWMA 18 Apr (JH, SB); 4 WRNWR 18 Apr (CaIb); Somers Marsh 8 May (SCam, MM, CR, SR).

American Coot: max 220 NCR 1-23 Mar (GBen, CR, ASw, mob); Sylvan L DUTC 12 Mar (CP); 4 RLSP 22-23 Mar (GC, YA); max 8 BSWMA 20 Mar-8 Apr (SGr, SB, KMi, mob); max 2 SHSR 20-22 Mar (KH, KMi, RH, mob).

Sandhill Crane: BSWMA 10 Mar (JH); 3 Walden ORAN 11 Mar (RDU, LD); max 3 WRNWR 20 Mar-31 May (LS, DS, PR, mob); Peekskill PUTN 26 Mar (MU); 5 Wappingers

Falls DUTC 26 Mar (DvZ); Nannahagan P WEST 4 Apr (ADr); Kingston 18 Apr (MD); 2 Salt Point DUTC 12 May (JJ), *intro*.

Black-bellied Plover: PP 17, 24 May (ASh, LP); MC 25-27 May (ASw, BS, KMcG, mob); 38 PP 28 May (ME); max 27 OCBDR 30 May (MZ, KMcD, LS, KMi, mob); 2 WRNWR 30 May (BW, HJK).

Semipalmated Plover: 2 CPP 18 May (RLe, GBen, BS, TWarr); PP 18 May (AWei); max 2 MC 19 May (TS, SCam); max 7 OCBDR 30 May (MZ, KMcD, LS, KMi).

Whimbrel: 2 Milton Pt WEST 27 May (JGol), *intro*.

Ruddy Turnstone: CPP 26 May (LO).

Dunlin: 5 Gardnertown Marsh ORAN 28 Mar (BN); Camel Farm 9-10 May (MZ, LS, JCim, KMi); 4 MC 15 May (MBo); OCBDR 30 May (MZ, KMcD, LS, KMi).

Purple Sandpiper: PP 1-10 Mar (CW, SCo); max 17 Rye WEST 2-28 Mar (KMcG, JD, SR, mob), *intro*.

Least Sandpiper: max 2 MC 3 May (MBo, GBen, SK); Pine Hill Rd ORAN 3 May (BN, JCim); 2 AP 6 May (RDa, SB, JH).

Pectoral Sandpiper: OCBDR 9-11 Apr, 5 May (KA, MZ, KMi, mob); CPP 4 May (ASw, KL); MC 25 May (KMcG).

American Oystercatcher: 2 Milton Pt 22 Mar (GBen, TBu, KMcG); max 4 EGR 25 Mar-31 May (GBen, TBu, BS, mob).

Solitary Sandpiper: Beaver Swamp DUTC 7 Apr (SJ, CP).

Spotted Sandpiper: Garrison Landing PUTN 15 Apr (KB, CR); WRNWR 19 Apr (LS); Cross River Res WEST 19 Apr (SCam).

Wilson's Snipe: WRNWR 13 Mar (CaIb); CPP 10, 19 Mar (CR, KL); max 5 Strever Farm DUTC 21-23 Mar (KF, CFr, CP, mob); Fireman's P SULL 28 Mar (RDa).

Wilson's Phalarope: MP 31 May (JH, SGr, BN, PD, RDe, RDa, KMi, MZ, SB, KMcD).

Greater Yellowlegs: 2 MC 6 Apr (GBen, TBu, JCh).

Willet: max 3 MC 6 Apr-31 May (GBen, TBu, ADr, mob).

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 6 MC 27 Apr-4 May (JGol, GBen, MBo).

Bonaparte's Gull: 3 NW 7 Apr (BN); 6 SS 7 Apr (JY); max 9 BSWMA 4-6 May (PD, SB, JH, SGr); max 12 The Landing Dobbs Ferry WEST 4 May (TWarr, SCam); 4 Dockside P 7 May (KB, CR); 3 Long Dock P 10 May (KB, DvZ, DCh).

Laughing Gull: CRS 26 Mar (SCam, KMcG, TS, KL); EGR 9 Apr (SCam, GBen, SR, mob).

Iceland Gull: NW 10-17 Apr (BN, DB, MZ, mob).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: CRS 1 Mar (SR, RLe); Plum Pt ORAN 4 Mar (BN); PP 7 Mar (KO); NW 25 Apr (BN, MZ, BT, mob).

Least Tern: max 5 MC 14-31 May (SCam, GBen, KMcG, mob).

Caspian Tern: SS 7 Apr (JY); BSWMA 21 Apr (JH, SB, SGr); CPP 2 May (SR, SCam, KB, mob); SS 30 Apr (DWe); KP 10 May (DO).

Black Tern: WL 4 May (MZ); KL 6 May (RDa, SGr, SB, mob).

Common Tern: max 11 EGR 29 Apr-31 May (GBen, BS, SR, SCam, mob); MC 1,5 Apr (JGol, RH); BSWMA 5 May (SB, PD, JH, KMi); max 20 MC 1-31 May (GBen, JS, KMcG, mob); Long Dock P 10 May (KB, DvZ).

Forster's Tern: max 7 MC 11 Apr-31 May (GBen, TBu, SCam, mob); SS 4 May (JY).

Black Skimmer: 2 MC 30 May (GBen, TB).

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: max 4 EGR 1 Mar-30 Apr (GBen, KMcG, mob); max 2 Kensico Res 1-30 Mar (KS, JAm); Steamboat Riverfront P 10-21 Mar (SR, GBer, CR, mob).

Common Loon: max 6 Kensico Res 1-31 Mar (KS, LWel, JAm); Orange L 26-28 Mar (YH, BN, JCim); NCR 24-25 Mar (GBen, TBu).

Northern Gannet: max 7 EGR 30 Mar- 4 Apr (SCam, GBen, TBu); 5 Davenport P WEST 2 Apr (KMcG).

Great Cormorant: max 12 Steamboat Riverfront P 1-21 Mar (SR, CR, GBer, mob); max 6 EGR 1-23 Mar (GBen, KMcG, SCam, mob); Breakneck Ridge Train Station DUTC 1 Apr (BMi, CP, BN); 2 Dockside P 13 Apr (CR); New Hamburg Yacht Club 13 Apr (DvZ); 2 Hyde Park Train Station DUTC 16 Apr (DCh).

Double-crested Cormorant: Mills-Norrie SP DUTC 12, 21 Mar (SK, BMi, MK, DCh); 3 KP 26-28 Mar (JY, AM); BP 12, 27-28 Mar (BN, KMi, KA, mob); max 3 WL 26-28 Mar (KA, MZ); max 25 CPP 24-28 Mar (CR, GBer, ASw, mob); 2 MP 28 Mar (JH, RDa).

American Bittern: Mountain Lakes P WEST 26 Mar (PL); WRNWR 15 Apr (LS); max 2 BSWMA 16 Apr-31 May (JH, KMi, SB, mob); Somers Marsh 8 May (SCam, MM, SR, CR).

Least Bittern: High Banks Pres ULST 6 May (SGa); MC 23 May (KC, DH, MCA); BSWMA 24 May (JH).

Great Egret: II 26 Mar (ME); EGR 27 Mar (GBen, TBu); 3 LR 29 Mar (SO); Willow Tree P ROCK 31 Mar (AWei); BSWMA 28 Apr-5 May (SB, JH, KMi, RDa, PD, mob); Phillipsport Marsh SULL 22-31 May (DD, JH, SB, mob).

Snowy Egret: EGR 27 Mar (GBen, TBu); II 21 Apr (AWei); 2 CRS 8 May (BS, LT, CR, mob); Long Dock P 27 May (KB).

Little Blue Heron: MC 30 Apr, 9 May (KMcG, GBen, SCam, SK, RH); Yorktown Heights WEST 3 May (SA).

Green Heron: Tivoli DUTC 19 Apr (RR); BSWMA 21 Apr (DD); LR 22 Apr (LT).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: LR 29 Mar (SO); RLSP 3 Apr (LD); Lents Cove WEST 25 Apr (SK, SR, GBer, NZ); Quassaic Creek ORAN 28 Apr-1 May (BN, KMi, BT, mob); 5 KP 1 May (PS); Wappingers L 30 May (CFe, CP, DvZ).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: TBWMA 11 Apr (PS); Titus Mill Pd WEST 18-19 Apr (KB, TWarr, PC, mob); VanBurenville Rd ORAN 25-29 May (JD, KMi), *intro*.

Glossy Ibis: Leonard P WEST 19 April (TS); 3 CPP 28 Apr (JGon); Putnam Valley PUTN 29 Apr-5 May (MU, SK, CR, mob); Somers Marsh 2 May (SCam, SR, KB); GV 13 May (DCA); Saugerties 13-14 May (DCA, PS, AB); 3 WRNWR 16 May (FP).

Osprey: Kensico Res 20 Mar (LWel); CPP 23 Mar (KH); CFSP 23 Mar (MR); WRNWR 10 May (JCim, RSt, KMi, LS).

Golden Eagle: Verbank DUTC 1 Mar (AM); Stissing Pd DUTC 20 Mar (SCar, DCh); Pine Plains DUTC 21 Mar (KF, CFr).

Rough-legged Hawk: max 3 OCBDR 1-6 Mar (ADa, AF); max 2 SGNWR 2-5 Mar (AWel, SLen, ASm); 2 Beechwoods SULL 5 Mar (JH).

FERRUGINOUS HAWK: OCBDR 2-13 Mar (FP, SA, SCam, mob), *intro*.

Snowy Owl: Woodstock ULST 20 Mar (PS); Hommocks School Larchmont WEST 22 Mar (DB, GBen, TB, AS).

Short-eared Owl: max 3 SGNWR 1-10 Mar (PC, MO, mob).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: River Rd SULL 11 Mar (RC); Phoenicia ULST 27 Mar (LQ).

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 3 Weston Rd ULST 4-22 May (WT, GF, mob); RSP 21-22 May (ASw, SCam, BS, mob).

Peregrine Falcon: Dockside P 9 Mar (CR, KB); Hawks Nest ORAN 13 Mar (WE); PHP 20 Mar (BMi, DvZ); SGNWR 22 Mar (LG); BSWMA 31 Mar (JH); widespread reports.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTINGS

Olive-sided Flycatcher: BSWMA 11-13 May (JH, SG, SB, EB); Hillview Res 12 May (SCam); Dodge Rd DUTC 15 May (KF, CFr); OMRLMSP 15 May (RMi).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: CPP 14 May (JW); Willowemoc Creek SULL 24 May (PH); Hudson Highlands SP DUTC 29 May (AR).

Acadian Flycatcher: Callicoon SULL 7 May (RK); Old Ford Rd ULST (SGa); Black Rock Forest ORAN 7-14 May (RSI, YH, SH); Sand Dock Rd Trail DUTC 14 May (CC); BSWMA 21-31 May (JH, SB, SGr, mob).

Alder Flycatcher: Kenneth Wilson SP ULST 13 May (PS); max 5 Fir Brook SULL 24-28 May (SB, SGr).

Least Flycatcher: EGR 29 Apr (BS); CPP 5-11 May (ASw, LT, KB, mob); max 3 WRNWR 28 Apr-11 May (LS, KA); max 3 PHP 29 Apr-11 May (SCar, JAs, CP, mob).

Great-crested Flycatcher: CPP 28 Apr (GC); Heritage Trail ORAN 28 Apr (KA), Hopeland Sanctuary DUTC 28 Apr (CV).

Eastern Kingbird: RSP 24 Apr (JW, DH, JAm, mob); BSWMA 28 Apr (JH); WRNWR 28 Apr (LS).

White-eyed Vireo: BSWMA 23 Apr-24 May (JH, KMi, RdA, MCol, SB, mob); WFPF 23 Apr (CR); Jilco Bike Trail WEST 24 Apr (JAi); max 2 BMSP 3-23 May (AWei, AWel, RLe, mob); Wappingers Falls 28 Apr (BMi); Hyde P DUTC 29 Apr (BE); Goosepond Mountain SP ORAN 5, 22 May (BN, BT, DA); Tarrytown L P WEST 6 May (PC); PHP 9-20 May (MR, BMi, DCh, mob); Bowdin P DUTC 21 May (KH).

Yellow-throated Vireo: BSWMA 28 Apr (JH).

Blue-headed Vireo: Lapla Rd ULST 8-11 Apr (AG); Deep Hollow Rd DUTC 11 Apr (DK); 2 BSWMA 16-23 Apr (SB, JH, KMi).

Philadelphia Vireo: Annsville Creek WEST 8 May (SLan); Wynkoop Rd ULST 13 May (DO); Ulster P 13 May (DT); RSP 15 May (RLe); BMSP 15 May (RLo).

Warbling Vireo: RSP 24 Apr (BS, DH, JW, mob); 4 WRNWR 24 Apr (KA).

Northern Shrike: Muhlig Rd SULL 3, 8 Mar (RDi, JH, TBU, GBen); Aden Rd SULL 7-8 Mar (SSu); Bradley Rd SULL 13-14 Mar (SGr, PC, PR, MS), *intro*.

Horned Lark: BSWMA 1-4 Mar (JH, SB); max 6 OCBDR 1-5 Mar (BN, SA); 14 Beechwoods 5 Mar (JH).

Purple Martin: 4 Coleman Rd ORAN 3 Apr (JK); max 2 CPP 7-9 Apr (MGe, GBen, LT, mob); max 2 Gibson Hill Rd 9-13 Apr (JS).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: max 4 CPP 24 Mar-9 Apr (GBen, TBU, SR, mob); max 5 WFPF 31 Mar (CR, KB); 2 NW 8 Apr (BN); BSWMA 9 Apr (JH).

Tree Swallow: max 45 SHSR 21-24 Mar (KMi, PR, BN, mob); max 175 CPP 1-24 Mar (SK, LT, SR, mob).

Barn Swallow: CPP 29 Mar (GBen, TBU); BSWMA 1 Apr (LVe); max 4 KP 18 Apr (TWarn, DO).

Bank Swallow: WRNWR 25 Apr (BN, LS); 3 BSWMA 4 May (JH, SB).

Cliff Swallow: max 3 Cross River Res 18-19 Apr (SR, JP, SCam).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: RSP 30 Mar (KR); max 3 CPP 1-5 Apr (GBer, KMcG, KL).

House Wren: Sparrow Bush ORAN 11 Apr (SR); MC 14 Apr (GBen, TBU); Stoney Kill Farm DUTC 14-15 Apr (CP, DvZ).

Sedge Wren: Hurley Mountain Rd ULST 25 May (ABl, mob).

Marsh Wren: WRNWR 12 Mar (KA); max 16 SHSR 13 Mar-31 May (KA, KMi, JCI, mob); Red Bridge Area WEST 28 Mar (FG); max 6 BSWMA 28 Apr-31 May (JH, SB, SGr, mob).

Veery: BSWMA 16 Apr (LVe); CPP 29 Apr (LO, JW); max 14 BSWMA 30 Apr-6 May (LVe, MBo, KMi).

Gray-checked Thrush: Woodbury ORAN 9 May (ME); Great Swamp DUTC 12 May (CC); West Saugerties Rd ULST 13 May (PS).

Swainson's Thrush: max 2 CPP 4-31 May (LT, BS, CR, mob); max 3 BSWMA 8-24 May (JH, LVe, SB, SGr, mob); PHP 15, 26 May (KB, DvZ, GBer, mob).

Wood Thrush: Fancher Davidge P ORAN 23 Apr (DB); max 10 BSWMA 28 Apr-31 May (JH, SB, SGr, mob); max 7 VFEP 4-31 May (DvZ, DCh, SCar, mob).

Brown Thrasher: CMACS 6 Apr (SSi); max 5 PHP 7-11 Apr (DCh); SGNWR 8 Apr (GT); max 4 BSWMA 9 Apr-31 May (JH, SB, SGr); WRNWR 10-11 Apr (LS, NS).

American Pipit: CPP 7 Mar (CR, LT, KMcG, mob); MC 22 Mar (ASw); 14 Toronto Res 5 May (SGr).

Evening Grosbeak: max 42 Blue Hill Rd SULL 1-13 Mar (JH, RdA, KMi, mob); Kingston 24 Apr (NW); Mount Tremper ULST 24-25 Apr (JS); High Falls ULST 28 Apr (KP); max 2 Millbrook DUTC 5-6 May (CP, DCh, AM, mob); max 2 Kentview Dr PUTN 6 May (SR, AM); max 2 Farmers Mill Rd PUTN 6-7

May (SCam, MM); Kenneth Wilson Campground ULST 8 May (WT); Montebello ROCK 8-9 May (JS); *intro*.

Purple Finch: 3 CPP 8 Apr (RK); 13 BSWMA 15 Apr (SB, JH), widespread thereafter.

Common Redpoll: max 24 Blue Hill Rd 1-13 Mar (JH, RDa, KMi); max 16 BSWMA 1-19 Mar (SB, JH, SGr); 30 Bradley SULL 4 Mar (JH); 18 Salt Pt DUTC 5 Mar (BMi); max 28 Port Ewen ULST 1-7 Mar (FB, SCam, MM, mob), *intro*.

HOARY REDPOLL (R9): Blue Hill Rd 1-13 Mar (JH, PD, RDe, TBu, GBen, mob); max 2 Port Ewen 1-17 Mar (FB, LWeI, KMi, DH); Salt Pt 8-19 Mar (BMi, KF, CFr), *intro*.

Red Crossbill: max 29 AR 5-28 Mar (AG, SCam, LWeI, KMcd, mob); 9 Kingston 6 Mar (NW); 6 Mount Community ULST 2 Apr (BS); CPP 20 Apr (LT); 7 Ashokan Rail Trail ULST 24 Apr (NW, RLu, MA), *intro*.

Snow Bunting: max 9 BSWMA 1-8 Mar (JH, SB, mob); 28 AR 2 Mar (AC); 6 Hunter Rd SULL 3 Mar (SSu).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Grasshopper Sparrow: SGNWR 8 May (DO); 2 Redhook DUTC 23 May (CP).

Clay-colored Sparrow: Montrose WEST 27 Apr (GBer).

Vesper Sparrow: 2 Lenape Ln ULST 4 Apr (MN); Sullivan County Community College SULL 5 Apr (JH); WRNWR 5 Apr (LS); Stoney Kill Farm EEC 13-14 Apr (KB); WFPF 14 Apr (CR).

Lincoln's Sparrow: Madam Brett P DUTC 3 May (KB); CPP 3 May (LT); WRNWR 5 May (LS); BSWMA 7 May (PD, RDe).

Yellow-breasted Chat: OMRLMSP 15 May (JClo); Bloomingburgh ORAN 20 May (KMcG).

Bobolink: Hillview Res 27 Apr (SCam); 3 Millbrook DUTC 29 Apr (JAS); Westtown ORAN 1 May (KMi).

Eastern Towhee: Wappingers Falls 29 Mar (DvZ); Bull Mill Rd ORAN 30 Mar (KA); RSP 31 Mar (FG); BSWMA 31 Mar (JH).

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Camel Farm 11 Mar (RDa, KMi), *intro*.

Eastern Meadowlark: max 6 SGNWR 1-25 Mar (TBe, MZ, LWei, mob); OCBDR 3-20 Mar (LS, JM); CPP 11-18 Mar (GBer, KMcG, SR, mob); 4 Beechwoods 5 Apr (JH).

Orchard Oriole: max 3 BSWMA 7-31 May (JH, SB, SGr, mob); max 2 DHCLP 14-31 May (DD, JH, SB, mob); 2 SGMWR 22-23 May

(NS, AM, mob); max 2 OMRLMSP 2-27 May (BMi, DvZ, GBen, mob); max 2 CPP 28 Apr-31 May (ASw, LO, LT, mob).

Baltimore Oriole: RSP 24 Apr (SK, BS).

Rusty Blackbird: max 3 Prunyn Sanctuary WEST 3-11 Mar (PC, GBer, PH); max 11 BSWMA 9-14 Mar (SGr, PD, SB, mob); 6 Beaver Pd 12 Mar (KA); 4 HS 14 Mar (LZ); 6 Ulster P 16 Mar (DT).

Boat-tailed Grackle: MC 13-20 Apr (TWarr, GBen, TBu, mob).

Ovenbird: Zena Farm ULST 20 Apr (LVV).

Louisiana Waterthrush: max 5 BSWMA 30 Mar-16 Apr (JH, PD, SB, KMi).

Northern Waterthrush: 3 Carmel Hamlet PUTN 18 Apr (HB); GV 21 Apr (RMI); 6 Great Swamp 21 Apr (CC).

Blue-winged Warbler: RSP 23-26 Apr (SK, BS, JW, mob).

Worm-eating Warbler: BMST 1-5 May (CC, AWei); PHP 1-2 May (MGa, MK); CPP 3 May (LT, ASw, SK); WRNWR 5 May (KA, LS).

Golden-winged Warbler: max 3 SFSP 1-7 May (JCin, BN, CW, mob); West Saugerties Rd 8 May (PS).

Tennessee Warbler: Pleasant Valley DUTC 30 Apr (SCar); 2 BSWMA 8 May (LVe, JH); BSWMA 15 May (SB, KMi, SA, mob).

Orange-crowned Warbler: Dobbs Ferry WEST 11 Apr (JAM).

Nashville Warbler: BSWMA 28 Apr (JH).

Mourning Warbler: max 3 BSWMA 7-23 May (AWel, SB, SGr, mob); High Banks Pres 15 May (NW, PS, DS, mob); Briscoe Rd SULL 21 May (NF); Woodstock 21 May (PS); Cliffdale Farm WEST 23 May (KB, CR).

Kentucky Warbler: BSWMA 20, 23 May (SGr, JH).

Common Yellowthroat: MC 21 Apr (GBen, SK, GBer, mob); 2 BSWMA 25 Apr (JH).

Cape May Warbler: O & W Rail Trail ULST 28 Apr (KP); max 2 LGC 9-13 May (MZ, LS, JCim); max 3 CPP 9-13 May (BS, KL); max 4 FPNC 3-18 May (NW).

Cerulean Warbler: max 4 BSWMA 29 Apr-31 May (JH, SB, SGr, mob); max 18 BMSP 1-31 May (CC, BT, MBo, mob); max 2 Hudson Highlands SP 7-24 May (SCar, AM, DCh, mob).

Bay-breasted Warbler: CPP 5 May (KB, CR, LT); LGC 7 May (DB); BSWMA 15 May (RB, SB, KMi, SA, mob).

Black-and-white Warbler: West Pt ORAN 12 Apr (BT); Hillside Woods and Childrens Village WEST 19 Apr (SLev); max 3 BSWMA 20-23Apr (SGr, LVe, SB, JH).

Hooded Warbler: Rye Nature Center 28 Apr (GBen, TB); BSWMA 29 Apr (RDa, JH, KMi, mob); CPP 29 Apr (SK, LO, JW); BMSP 1 May (AV).

American Redstart: max 4 BSWMA 28 Apr (LVe, SB, KMi, RDa, mob); RSP 28 Apr (PC, LT, SW).

Northern Parula: max 4 BSWMA 28 Apr-1 May (JH, SB, DB, mob); max 4 MC 29 Apr (GBen, JG, BS, mob).

Magnolia Warbler: Teatown Lake Reservation WEST 30 Apr (CR); BSWMA 1 May (MVD); 3 BMSP 1 May (BT); OMRLMSP 1 May (CP).

Blackburnian Warbler: Mohonk Mountain House ULST 29 Apr (SB); CPP 29 Apr (BS); Georges Island WEST 29 Apr (GBer); BSWMA 30 Apr (JH).

Yellow Warbler: Black Creek Rd ULST 17 Apr (JG); Crawford Walking Trail ULST 18 Apr (DB).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: 3 SHSR 29 Apr (KA); CPP 29 Apr-1 May (CR); EGR 29 Apr (BS); BSWMA 30 Apr (LVe).

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Pelham Manor WEST 19 Apr (TK); max 40 BSWMA 7 May (JH, SB, SGr, mob).

Palm Warbler: Bucolic Acres ULST 28 Mar (ER); max 10 BSWMA 29-31 Mar (JH, SB, KMi, SGr, mob).

Pine Warbler: Monroe ORAN 1 Mar (HB); Yonkers WEST 5-21 Mar (MBo); max 10

BSWMA 29-30 Mar (SB, KMi, SGr); 3 HVRT 31 Mar (BMi); max 2 CIEOS 31 Mar (CP, JAs).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: 2 Twin Lakes P WEST 27 Mar (LT); Binnewater Rd ULST 27 Mar (MCor); SHSR 28 Mar (KA); 3 BSWMA 31 Mar (JH).

Yellow-throated Warbler: Staatsburg DUTC 28 Apr (MGe).

Prairie Warbler: SFSP 26 Apr (RA); max 2 BSWMA 28 Apr (JH, SB, GBen, TBu); CIOES 28 Apr (JAs).

Canada Warbler: Cranberry L Pres WEST 5 May (MGr); BSWMA 7 May (PD, RDe, SB, mob).

Black-throated Green Warbler: Deep Hollow Rd DUTC 20 Apr (DCh, SCar); GV 21 Apr (RMi).

Wilson's Warbler: Putnam Valley 2 May (PG); BSWMA 8-18 May (SB, KMi, mob); Cliffdale Farm 14 May (KB, CR); PHP 14 May (JCo, JAl); Woodstock 31 May (PS).

SUMMER TANAGER (R9): RSP 4 May (DH, MM).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Rosendale ULST 22 Apr (DWe); Verbank 23 Apr (BB).

Blue Grosbeak: Wappingers Falls 20 Apr (DvZ, CP, BMi, mob), *intro*.

Indigo Bunting: Kingston 20 Apr (SGa); WPFP 23 Apr (KB).

REGION 10—MARINE

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Precipitation totals were lower than average for the city for March and April. Long Island was a half inch below normal during that period but had a wetter than usual May. Temperatures across Region 10 (R10) deviated over three degrees Fahrenheit from the mean in March, then less than two in April, and finally approached normal in May.

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to affect birding behavior in R10, but to a much lesser degree than the prior spring. The pattern of cases was actually similar to the prior year, with a spike into the thousands in early April before declining sharply into June, but more evenly spread out across the state. Thankfully, year-on-year deaths improved drastically. An intense vaccine rollout

began in early 2021, but eligibility was expanded greatly during the period of this report. Vaccine pessimism united with vaccine optimism to deliver many people back to a fairly familiar grind. Regardless, birding had been long established to be a particularly safe escape. The pandemic did not seem to cause any major coverage issues like last year; the only possibly surprising miss for this period was the nomadic Long-eared Owl, although it was reported from a few R10 locations in the first two months of 2021. Paulagics, the little but influential company organizing pelagics to New York waters, had been on hiatus through the pandemic, but a few critical reports came in from offshore waters.

	Central Park			Islip		
Temp	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Mar	45.8°	42.5°	+3.3°	42.4°	39.3°	+3.1°
Apr	54.6°	53.0°	+1.6°	50.9°	49.1°	+1.8°
May	62.9°	63.2°	-0.3°	59.7°	59.5°	+0.2°
Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Mar	3.41"	4.36"	-0.95"	3.83"	4.34"	-0.51"
Apr	2.69"	4.50"	-1.81"	3.92"	4.44"	-0.52"
May	4.36"	3.96"	+0.40"	5.12"	3.28"	+1.84"

Some population trends for introduced species are likely worth mentioning in these reports periodically. Maximum Mute Swan counts have continued declining in recent years. **Ring-necked Pheasant** remains in a few overgrown areas and even city landfills, but is on the brink of extirpation where not restocked. This period, they were reported from Brooklyn to Suffolk, as well as on Staten Island. Northern Bobwhite are being bred and released in more and more Long Island parks, but few seem to thrive. Lately, they have been primarily reported from the East End and the North Shore as far west as Port Washington. **European Goldfinch** continue to hold on confidently to the partial greenbelt stretching from Green-Wood Cemetery to Forest Park, with occasional individuals possibly from this population seen around the greater Region. Some were reported from Floyd Bennet Field as well as an individual at a feeder in Syosset.

Overwintering individuals of note that remained into this period included a **Pink-footed Goose** in Northport, a **Mew Gull** (of the Eurasian taxon which, at the time of writing, has been split as “Common Gull” from the American taxon, “Short-billed Gull”) in western Brooklyn, **Western Tanager** in a micropark in Manhattan, and a **Varied Thrush** at a private residence in Ridge. Both eiders have been lingering into the warmer months lately. Common Eider now retains little armadas throughout the coast through the summer molt, which may not be so surprising given that their regular breeding range reaches our Region at the Long Island Sound and Block Island Sound convergence. **King Eider** sometimes sticks to these groups as in winter, but camaraderie is not solely retaining them as some are seen independent of other ducks, like the two seen around Great Kills this

period. A Harlequin Duck on **27 May** at Cupsogue was also impressively unseasonal, but not part of any obvious trend.

Early spring tends to produce a few sightings of scarce birds beginning to reposition before the migration rush. A **Golden Eagle**, which is always exceptional in the Region, was photographed migrating over Hempstead Lake in March. A **Northern Shrike** at Floyd Bennet Field was the first and only reported in R10 in 2021 up to that point. A hybrid **Eastern x Spotted Towhee** from the middle of the country was a very rare find in Northport in late April.

A few neotropical migrant songbirds beat their previous early arrival records, and Wilson's Warbler matched its previous record of **14 April**. An Olive-sided Flycatcher made its **second ever April debut on the 29th** in Central Park, beating its old record by a day. Northern Parula made its **first March appearance**, showing up on the 31st and beating its record by five days. Veery also snuck in a **record-setting March date**, beating its 15 April record by 16 days. All of the few Veery records outside of the tropics in late winter have occurred in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic areas, so perhaps this bird never left the United States. Perhaps most dramatic of all was a Chimney Swift recorded on **21 March**, eleven days before its previous early date, and one day after the official beginning of spring.

Most of the expected offshore species were tallied during transects of a NOAA vessel traversing the continental shelf edge from Hudson Canyon east on a single day in May. A nice mix of summer and winter seabirds were seen. **Northern Fulmar**, Sooty and Manx Shearwater, Wilson's Storm-Petrels, flocks of Red-necked Phalarope, Razorbill, Dovekie, and **Atlantic Puffin** were all recorded over a few hours. In addition, a **Brown Booby** was recorded, one of two noted in this report. The other spent some time around the mouth of Newark Bay, first seen from the New Jersey side before becoming visible from Staten Island. This species seems to be increasingly seen in our Region both moving offshore and lingering in quiet bays and marinas.

Regarding later arrivals, **Arctic Terns** have been findable across barrier beaches as far west as New York City in most recent years, particularly in June. On the last day of May a single bird was seen at Nickerson Beach, as were an astounding ten individuals that were carefully counted at Cupsogue. A **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was a spectacular find in the Pine Barrens near EPCAL in May, on the same day that a **Western Grebe** was being seen in Brooklyn. A beautiful male **Ruff** was a lucky sighting for an observer in Moriches a few days later. There were few Breeding Bird Atlas highlights for this period, but **Chuck-will's-Widow** continues to breed in selected areas of Suffolk County, including a stronghold of territorial birds on Fire Island. A video recording of **two Pileated Woodpeckers** taken by a non-birder at a private home in Mattituck in early spring made its way into MaryLaura Lamont's hands and hence into the official record here; this is an exceedingly rare species in Suffolk County. Unfortunately, there were no further reports.

A well-celebrated find was a **Wood Stork** at Westhampton that eventually developed a routine that allowed many to see it. It preceded a number of

interesting southern waders that dispersed later in the summer. However, no rarity was more thought-provoking than one that showed on April Fool's Day in Brooklyn. Doug Gochfeld reported a female "martin sp." from his morning walk around Prospect Lake. The author inquired about his unusual choice of words. It was still a bit early for Purple Martin, so had he perhaps had a candidate for that species seen poorly? The only other martin recorded in the Northeast previously had been Brown-chested, which is not likely to cause confusion and inspire use of "martin sp." It was quickly clarified that the bird resembled a Purple Martin but a few features were off, suggesting one of many neotropical candidates. Suddenly things were more serious. The bird ended up cooperating for five days, during which time it was documented by hundreds of observers. All *Progne* martins were considered, but **Gray-breasted Martin** was widely agreed to be most consistent. Neotropical martin identification is likely not fully developed and is certainly more challenging without physical forensics. Many photographs and audio samples were taken in case this identification ever needs to be revisited, but for now we will give it a name. Going forward, the community will surely find "martin sp." a rather exciting label in itself.

301 species were recorded this period.

It is with sadness that we report the death of long-time Region 10 birder, Lore Schore. The following remembrance from her son, Robin Schore of Hopewell, NJ, was conveyed to us by Lore's close friend, Mary Normandia.

Lore J. Schore died on May 14, 2021 at the age of 97. She had been a driven birder for more than 65 of those years. In her quest to populate her life-list, she traveled to all seven continents, including Antarctica. She held various positions with the Queens County Bird Club including serving as president and editing its "News & Notes". She faithfully participated in the annual NY Christmas bird counts and considered the Jamaica Bay Refuge a second home. She was most proud when her sightings were cited in the RBA. Lore spent her later years sitting at her kitchen table in New Jersey, binoculars in hand, with a broad view of her bird feeder, birdbath and wren house. Her family often quoted her eternal line, "One can never have enough owls." Her vast collection of bird books has been donated to the Bucks County (PA) Audubon Society.

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ABBREVIATIONS

APP – Alley Pd P, QUEE; **BPt** – Breezy Pt, QUEE; **CIC** - Coney Island Creek P, KING; **CP** – Central P, NEWY; **CR** – Cemetery of the Resurrection, RICH; **FBF** – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; **FMCP** – Flushing Meadows-Corona P, QUEE; **FP** – Forest P, QUEE; **GKP** – Great Kills P, RICH; **GwC** – Green-Wood Cemetery, KING; **HLSP** – Hempstead L SP, NASS; **JBSP** – Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWR** – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; **MF** – Miller Field, RICH; **PeIT** – pelagic transects near continental shelf, SUFF; **PBP** – Pelham Bay P, BRON; **PL** – Point Lookout, NASS; **PlumbB** – Plumb Beach, KING; **PP** – Prospect P, KING; **RI** – Randall’s I, NEWY; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **Sag** – Sagaponack Pd, SUFF; **SCSP** – Shirley Chisholm SP, KING; **TP** – Timber Pt, SUFF; **VCP** – Van Cortlandt P, BRON.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Cackling Goose: Belmont L SP, SUFF 2 Mar; Great Pd, SUFF 7 Mar (JSep).

Greater White-fronted Goose: Sag 9 Mar (M. Doyle, D. Quinn).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE: Northport, SUFF 1 Mar (TS, BBo).

Mute Swan: max 100 JBWR (I. Conte), declining.

Eurasian Wigeon: Bush Terminal Piers P, KING thru 14 Mar (mob); Pepperidge L, SUFF thru Mar 27 (mob).

Canvasback: max 340 Water Mill, SUFF 6 Mar (PJJ, SSM), dep TP 18 Apr (mob).

Common Eider: *intro*.

King Eider: many; max 3 PL 9-10 Apr (mob), 2 GKP thru end of period (mob), *intro*.

Harlequin Duck: MSP 13 Mar (A. Paret); 3 PL thru 1 May (mob); dep 27 May Cupsogue CP (M. Obmascik), late.

Northern Bobwhite: *intro*.

Ring-necked Pheasant: *intro*.

Wild Turkey: outside of traditional areas in RICH, eastern BRON, SUFF: Woodlawn Cemetery, BRON 30 Mar, 28 Apr (J. Burland, RA); VCP 21-28 Apr (RA); IHP 5 May thru end of period (mob).

Red-necked Grebe: PBP thru 27 Mar (RA); 2 PL 14 Mar (DCh); PB 7 May (PPau), late.

WESTERN GREBE: CIC 11-14 May (A. Ferino, mob), seen from various vantages.

Black-billed Cuckoo: arr CP 19 Apr (A. Burke), early.

Chuck-will’s-Widow: max 6 Fire I, SUFF 21 May (PSw); PP 1 May (mob); Quogue, SUFF 6 May thru end of period (mob); BPt 18-21 May (R. Ellard); Ridge, SUFF 19 May (APe).

Chimney Swift: arr Crocheron P, QUEE 21 Mar (L. Weir), *intro*.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Sora: 3 River Rd marshes, RICH 27 Apr – 8 May (mob); JBWR 24 May (JDi).

Upland Sandpiper: FBF 21 Apr (TPr).

Whimbrel: max 19 BPt 27 May (ABk, PPau, CFi).

Red Knot: max 80 Sunset Cove P, QUEE (MAc, CFi, RyM).

RUFF: m Moriches In, SUFF 17 May (D. DeFeo).

Western Sandpiper (Spring): Lido Beach, NASS 13 Mar (BF); JBSP 20 Mar (KFe).

Wilson's Phalarope: MBF 19 May (ACi, mob); JBWR 20-25 May (mob); Macari Cow Pd, Mattituck, SUFF 26 May (BBol, JSep, JRan).

Red-necked Phalarope: max 8, PeIT 15 May (DG, AIB).

Parasitic Jaeger: only one, PeIT 15 May (DG, AIB).

jaeger sp.: 2 RMSP 29 May (ChC).

Dovekie: Georgica Hollow, SUFF 27 Mar (PMar, E. Ratner), on flats following storm; PeIT 15 May (DG, AIB).

Razorbill: dep, PeIT 15 May (DG, AIB), late.

ATLANTIC PUFFIN: PeIT 15 May (DG, AIB), late.

Black-legged Kittiwake: 4 MSP 7 Mar (PMar, E. Ratner), only obs this period.

Black-headed Gull: 7+ identifiable individuals, all adults except one: Old Field Pt, SUFF 14 Mar (PaD, KCo), returning for many years; RMSP 14 Mar (LN, JGl); Sheepshead Bay, KING 14 Mar (HLo, MY); RI 21 Mar (DA); PP and Sunset P waterfront, KING thru 23 Mar (mob), commuting imm; SCSP, KING 26 Mar (R. Fleming); CIC 28 Mar (SBI, mob).

COMMON GULL: PP and Sunset Cove waterfront, KING thru 9 Mar (mob), commuting imm.

Caspian Tern: Joline Ave B, RICH 19 Apr (ACi), early; HSP 8 May (VG); Kings Pt, NASS 12 May (MMb); Crab Meadow Beach, SUFF 14 May (TS).

Black Tern: Great Gull I, SUFF 12-15 May (D. Sibley); NB 19 May (D. Scheiman); Rockaway B, QUEE 22 May (CFi); RMSP 29 May (MNo, SAu).

Arctic Tern: *intro*, 10 Cupsogue Beach, SUFF 31 May (MMb); NB 31 May (RZ, mob).

LOONS – PARAKEET

NORTHERN FULMAR (R10): PeIT 15 May (DG, AIB).

Sooty Shearwater: PeIT 15 May (DG, AIB).

Manx Shearwater: PeIT 15 May (DG, AIB).

Wilson's Storm-Petrel PeIT 15 May (DG, AIB).

WOOD STORK: imm, Beaverdam Creek, SUFF 5-15 May (S, Saunders, mob), *intro*.

BROWN BOOBY: PeIT 15 May (DG, AIB); Mariner's Harbor waterfront, RICH (SWo, IG, ACi), *intro*.

American Bittern: dep Shu Swamp, NASS 3 May (CKI).

Least Bittern: max 2 Arshamomaque Pres, SUFF 23 May (JRan).

Cattle Egret: FMCP 19 Apr (JKe); CR 20 Apr (SWo, mob); PBP 25 Apr (PHO).

WHITE-FACED IBIS: Captree I, SUFF 30 Apr thru 3 May (LNa, mob).

Black Vulture: many from across R10, NASS having the fewest with 9 reports, singles and small groups.

GOLDEN EAGLE (R10): imm HLSP 19 Mar (I. Ahuvia), ph.

MISSISSIPPI KITE: New York Botanical Garden, BRON 9 May (PSw).

Great Horned Owl: max 11 PBP 14 Apr (A. Eastwick), four nests.

Snowy Owl: handful of reports from QUEE, NASS, and SUFF; CP thru 2 Mar (mob), *intro*.

Barred Owl: PBP 27 Mar (A. Eastwick); CP throughout period (mob).

Short-eared Owl: sev in habitat in NASS, SUFF, but also migr: SCSP, KING 30 Mar (DG, SSI); RI 31 Mar (DAR); PlumbB 4 Apr (MEp, JMal).

Northern Saw-whet Owl: few: GwC 11, 19 Mar (JMal); CP 20 Mar (D. B. Yolton, M. Bellew).

Pileated Woodpecker: sev RICH and BRON; IHP 4-17 Apr (NOR, mob); APP 3 May (EMi, CV, mob); Riverside P, NEWY 16 May (L. Beausoleil); 2 Mattituck SUFF where very rare, video, *intro*.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr CP 29 Apr (A. Cunningham), earliest in R10 by 1 day.

Northern Shrike: FBF 20 Mar (HLo, MEp, MY, mob).

GRAY-BREASTED MARTIN: PP 1-4 Apr (DG, mob), *intro*.

VARIED THRUSH: Ridge residence, SUFF thru 18 Mar (J. Burke).

Veery: PP 31 Mar (J. Salas), *intro*.

BICKNELL's THRUSH (R10): PP 19 May (JMal, RyM, MEp), recorded; FP 24 May (SA).

Evening Grosbeak: several reports in each county, max 12 PP 7 May (RyM); dep PP 13 May (mob).

Common Redpoll: several in each county except BRON, max 15 GwC 12 Mar (M. Silber).

Red Crossbill: max 30 RMSP 1 Mar (LNa); dep Hunter's Gardens, SUFF 23 May (mob).

Pine Siskin: reports mostly from NYC to western SUFF.

Lapland Longspur: none.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Clay-colored Sparrow: Gantry Plaza, QUEE 5-8 May (S. & M. Murphy), Hallockville SP, SUFF 16 May (KJK).

American Tree Sparrow: dep PP 4 May (M. Cook).

Nelson's Sparrow: 4 PlumbB 29 May thru end of period (E. Clark, mob).

SPOTTED X EASTERN TOWHEE (hybrid): Fuchs Pd Pres, SUFF 28 Apr (TS).

Yellow-breasted Chat: CP 4, 8, 12 May (mob); FP 13 May (MNo, SAu); Dam Pd, SUFF 14 May (JSep).

Golden-winged Warbler: Todt Hill, RICH (MSh); Trout Pd P, SUFF 10 May (CGa, MGa).

"Lawrence's" Warbler (Blue-winged x Golden-winged Warbler hybrid): Frank Melville Pd, SUFF 30 Apr –1 May (KJK, mob); West Hills C P, SUFF 3 May (MMb).

Prothonotary Warbler: reports from all counties.

Kentucky Warbler: reported in all counties except RICH and SUFF.

Cerulean Warbler: 1-3 reports from all counties except BRON.

Northern Parula: arr CP 31 Mar (mob), *intro*.

BLACK-THROATED GRAY WABLER: Prestons Pd, SUFF 14 May (BBu, mob).

Wilson's Warbler: CP 14 Apr (D. B. Yolton), *intro*.

Summer Tanager: 2+ reports from all counties except BRON.

WESTERN TANAGER: Carl Schurz P, NEWY thru Apr 18 (mob), found in Dec.

Blue Grosbeak: reported from all counties.

EXOTICS

European Goldfinch: *intro*.



Black-thoated Gray Warbler, Preston's Pond, *Suffolk*, 14 May 2021, © Brenda Bull.

REPORTING YOUR OBSERVATIONS

Observers are strongly encouraged to report their findings directly to the Regional Editors, to help identify significant trends. Summary reports of observations; impressions of notable patterns in the weather, timing of migration, unusual scarcity or abundance of particular species, etc.; and notable individual records are highly valued. For maximum usefulness, send in reports no later than the 15th day of the month following the end of each season:

15 March, 15 June, 15 September, and 15 December.

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in BOLD; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in UPPER CASE letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! – details seen by Regional Editor; ad – adult; alt – alternate plumage; arr – arrival or first of season; BBS – Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS – bird of the season; CBC – Christmas Bird Count; Co – County; I – Island; imm – immature; intro – see introduction to report; juv – juvenile; L – Lake; max – maximum; mob – multiple observers; Mt – Mountain; NYSDEC – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR – National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC – report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P – park; Pd – Pond; ph – photographed; Pres – Preserve; Pt – Point; Res – Reservoir; Ri – River; SP – State Park; spm – specimen; subad – subadult; T – Town of; thru – throughout period; Twn – township; WMA – Wildlife Management Area; y – young.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS CODES

These codes are listed in ascending order to highest breeding codes.

POSSIBLE: H – in appropriate habitat; S – singing bird.

PROBABLE: S7 – singing male present 7+ days; M – multiple (7+) singing males; P – pair in suitable habitat; T – territorial defense; C – courtship, display, or copulation; N – visiting probable nest site; A – agitated behavior; B – woodpecker/wren nest building.

CONFIRMED: PE – physiological evidence; CN – carrying nesting material; NB – nest building; DD – distraction display; UN – used nest; ON – occupied nest; FL – recently fledged and precocial young; CF – carrying food; FY – feeding young; FS – carrying fecal sac; NE nest with eggs; NY – nest with young.

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:

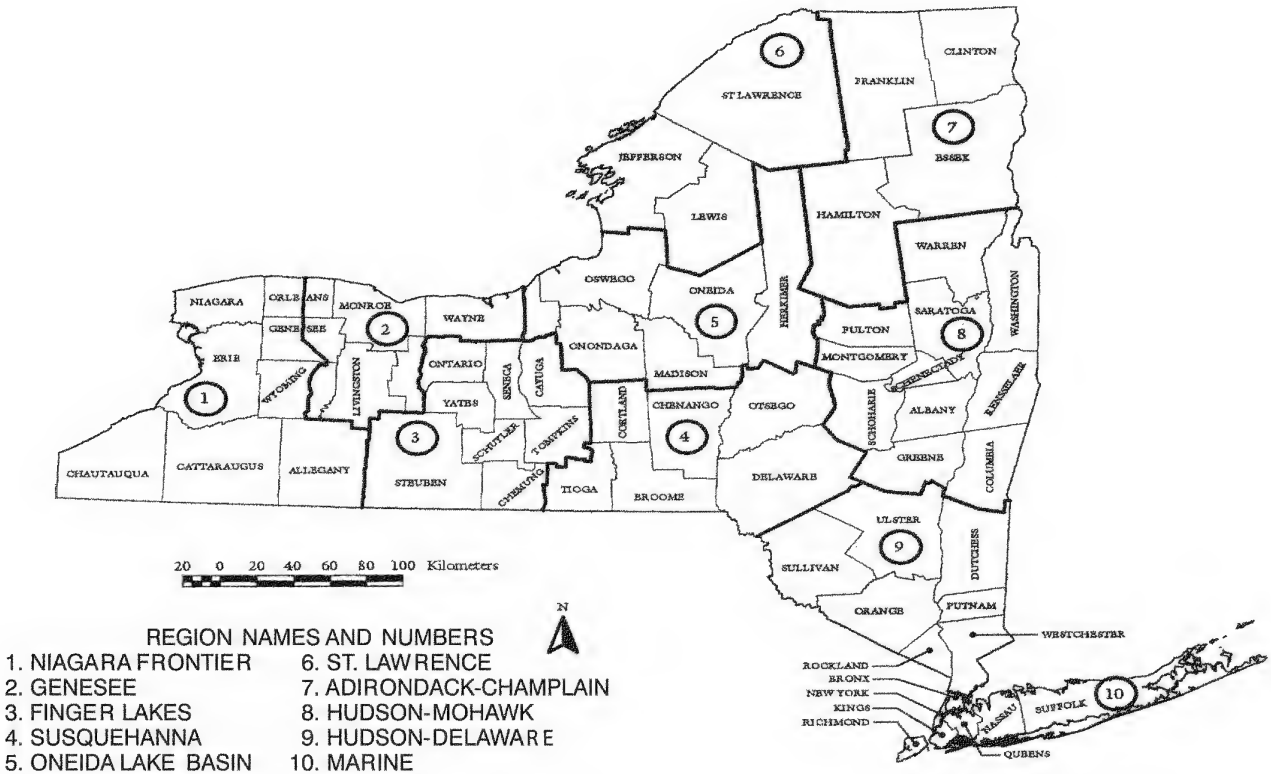
the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia; NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19 from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:

the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64 from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21 from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.



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CONTENTS

Effectiveness of different methods for determining song repertoire size of a Gray Catbird (<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>) Elliot H. Lee	318
New York State Ornithological Association, Inc., 74 th Annual Meeting, October 2, 2021	325
Notes and Observations More Common Ravens (<i>Corvus corax</i>) nesting in NYS Department of Transportation's salt barns Sarah Lazazzero (Kruse)	332
Further observations of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in Middletown, Orange County, NY Joyce M. Depew	333
Patch Birding: Beaver Lake Nature Center Joseph Brin	335
Highlights of the Season, Summer 2021 Michael F. Cooper	336
Regional Reports, Summer 2021	340
Photo Gallery Summer 2021	365
Standard Regional Report Abbreviations, Reporting Deadlines, and Map of Reporting Regions	419

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Back Cover – Eastern Kingbirds, Town of Caroline, *Tomkins*, 8 Jul 2021,
© Sandy Podulka.

EFFECTIVENESS OF DIFFERENT METHODS FOR DETERMINING SONG REPERTOIRE SIZE OF A GRAY CATBIRD (*Dumetella carolinensis*)

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²New York State Young Birders Club, New York, USA

Abstract—The Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) has an extensive song repertoire that impacts a male's reproductive attractiveness. Using field recordings of a single male Gray Catbird, repertoire size was estimated via two methods of computer analysis, which were compared and verified by direct observation. Processing by utilizing a moving threshold method was found to be more effective than a fixed threshold method in both determining a large number of phrase-types and maintaining high accuracy. However, direct observation revealed that much of the song remained unassigned to a phrase-type. After accounting for under-analysis of the data, song repertoire size was estimated to be approximately 970 phrase-types.

Song repertoire size is considered a driver of sexual selection in many species of birds (MacDougall-Shackleton 1997; Reid *et al.* 2004; Yasukawa *et al.* 1980), including North American mimids (family Mimidae), which boast some the largest song repertoires currently known (Wildenthal 1965). The songs of Gray Catbirds (*Dumetella carolinensis*) can extend for up to ten minutes with an incredibly diverse series of phrases, incorporating extensive mimicry (Dolby *et al.* 2005). Song is an integral aspect of sexual selection and reproduction in Gray Catbirds as song production rate is correlated with paternal chick feeding effort (Dolby *et al.* 2005).

However, the exact size of their repertoire remains relatively unknown. Repertoire size estimates for other North American mimids are quite varied. Northern Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*) song repertoire size has been estimated to reach 203 songs (Derrickson 1987). Brown Thrashers (*Toxostoma rufum*) have song repertoires that have been found to reach to an estimated 2,327 song units (Kroodsma and Parker 1977). Considering the frequently large repertoire size of many mimids, the simple enumeration of song-types by direct observation is often infeasible. Recent advances in recording and computational technology have allowed for simple, rapid methods of estimating repertoire size. Therefore, the aim of this study was to compare the effectiveness of two computer-based methods in determining repertoire size: fixed threshold analysis and moving threshold analysis.

METHODS

This study took place on a single male Gray Catbird between 5 May and 4 June 2020 at the Tenaflly Nature Center, in Tenaflly, New Jersey (40.92468 N, 73.94488 W). The bird was determined to be a unique male during the process of measuring territory size. The territory of the breeding pair was mapped between 10 and 20 May using playback experiments. Recordings of other local Gray Catbirds, birds found within a twenty-mile radius of the study location, were systematically played back to the Gray Catbird observed to be singing. The limits of the territory were determined by playing recordings farther from the estimated center of the territory.

A LyxPro CMG-500 shotgun microphone was used for recording in conjunction with a Tascam DR-05X recorder.

For the purpose of this study, the following definitions will be used to describe vocalizations. They are expansions of the definitions used by Boughey and Thompson (1981) as well as Wildenthal (1965) in their study of mimids.

- a. Syllable: Any mark on a sonogram at a unique time and frequency;
- b. Phrase: A series of syllables lacking pauses of more than 20ms and separated from all other syllables by at least 20ms;
- c. Phrase-Type: A phrase with unique frequency-time characteristic; to be considered of the same phrase-type, the phrases must be within 500 Hz of each other and have durations within 20% of the shorter phrase;
- d. Group: A collection of multiple phrases generated during processing; ideally, representative of a single phrase-type

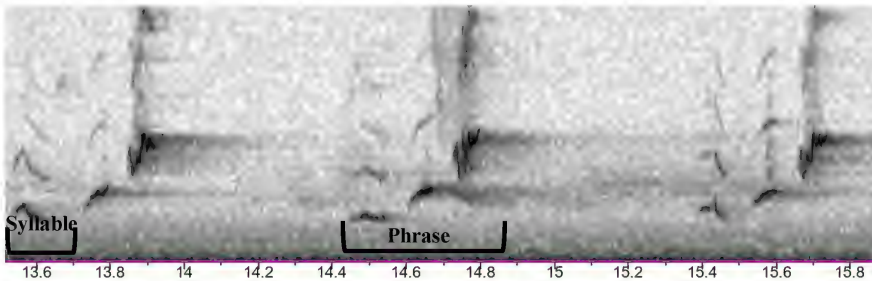


Figure 1: A spectrogram of a series of three phrases recorded on May 6th, 2020 marked with the song terminology used. Displayed in Raven Lite.

Following field recording, songs were analyzed using the R package WarbleR v.1.1.24 (Araya-Salas and Smith-Vidaurre 2017). Spectrograms were counted and labeled after automatic detection by WarbleR at threshold 3%. Adjustments were manually made as necessary to ensure that the phrases selected adhered to the definitions outlined above. Cross-correlation was then used to compare selections.

The result was a correlation matrix which had correlation values, ranging between 0 and 1, for any combination of two selected phrases.

To group the phrases, two different methods were applied: the fixed threshold method and the moving threshold method. The fixed threshold method first set a correlation factor threshold. For this experiment, I used threshold values of 0.75, 0.70, and 0.65, using one for each of the three times the data was processed. Then, for each phrase, a group with all pairs of phrases with a correlation factor greater than the threshold and adhered to the definition of phrase-type was formed. Next, the phrases within the group were cross-correlated with each other and those that failed to reach the designated threshold were removed. Groups were then compared against each other and duplicates were eliminated. As each phrase could belong to more than one group, groups containing the same phrase were merged and cross-correlated. If all phrases in the merged group passed the correlation factor threshold, the groups were merged; otherwise, the groups were again separated. This process was repeated until no more groups could be formed.

A secondary fixed threshold method (hereafter length-adjusted fixed threshold (LAFT)) was also applied. Preliminary results indicated that shorter phrases were more likely to be accurately grouped, even at higher thresholds. Therefore, a final fixed threshold analysis was conducted where phrases were divided into short—(less than 0.153s), medium—(between 0.153s and 0.336s), and long-length phrases (longer than 0.336s) and analyzed at threshold values of 0.75, 0.70, and 0.65 respectively.

By comparison, the moving threshold method first set the threshold to the highest correlation factor among all phrases which was 0.85. The threshold was decreased from 0.85 to 0.65 by decrements of 0.01. After each decrease, all pairs of phrases with a correlation factor above the threshold and adhered to the definition of phrase-type were found. Each pair of phrases was then compared against existing groups. If possible, it was merged with other groups; otherwise the pair formed their own group. Once added to a group, the phrase was removed from the general pool of phrases, eliminating any possibility of overlap between groups.

Ideally, in both methods, each group would consist of all occurrences of a particular phrase-type. To determine the accuracy of the generated groups from both methods, ten groups were sampled manually for each method. Seven groups were selected randomly and the remaining three groups were randomly selected from the five longest groups in terms of average length. Each group selected consisted of least three phrases. This was done to ensure random sampling while examining the effectiveness of the grouping of longer phrases.

Accuracy was then calculated by analyzing the phrases in each of the selected groups. Phrases were assessed to determine if the group was correctly constructed. Accuracy was simply the number of correctly matched phrases divided by the total number of phrases across the ten selected groups.

RESULTS

During the spring of 2020, more than 53 minutes of songs were recorded across 31 analyzable recordings between 6 May and 1 June. Some recordings were not analyzed due to elevated external noise or insufficient duration of catbird song. Following the autodetection of song, 4891 phrases were identified. These phrases were then merged if they were within 0.20 seconds of one another. In the end, I identified 2235 phrases from the individual. The individual and its probable mate occupied a territory of approximately 0.199 hectare.

Processing Accuracy

Each method resulted in a very different number of groups. The number of groups formed varied from only 40 groups to 413, with accuracy ranging from 0.509 to 0.750 (Table 1). Accuracy decreased as the threshold was decreased in the fixed threshold method and overall, the moving threshold method performed more accurately. The LAFT method has average accuracy. While many accuracy values were precisely 1, indicating that the group formed was completely accurate, accuracy tended to increase as phrase length increased (Figure 2).

Table 1: Number of groups formed by each method and accuracy of the groups

	Fixed Threshold			LAFT	Moving Threshold
Threshold	0.75	0.70	0.65	0.75-0.65	0.85 – 0.60
Groups	40	155	413	213	284
Accuracy	0.730	0.625	0.509	0.571	0.750

Repertoire Size

As the moving threshold method proved to be the most accurate method, the repertoire size was estimated from that particular method. The moving threshold method proposed 294 groups. However, many phrases were not grouped into any of the categories (Table 2).

With many phrases remaining un-grouped, the true repertoire size of the individual was estimated. It was highly unlikely that all the phrases that were not grouped were unique. To estimate the true number of phrase-types, it was assumed that the remaining phrases likely occur in groups with a similar number of phrases as produced by the moving threshold method. Therefore, this would group the remaining 1565 phrases into approximately 686 phrase-types for a predicted song repertoire of 970 phrase-types.

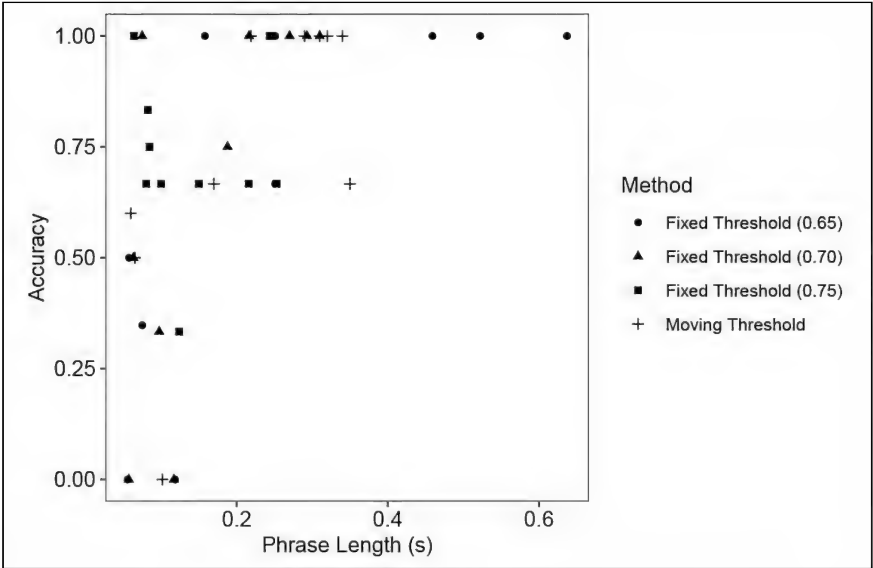


Figure 2: Accuracy of grouping plotted as a function of phrase length (n = 40).

Table 2: Proportion of total phrases grouped by each method.

	Grouped	Not Grouped	Proportion Grouped	Phrases per Group
Fixed Threshold (0.65)	805	1430	0.36	3.78
Fixed Threshold (0.70)	306	1929	0.14	3.21
Fixed Threshold (0.75)	110	2142	0.042	2.75
LAFT	676	1559	0.30	3.17
Moving Threshold	670	1565	0.30	2.28

DISCUSSION

As expected, higher thresholds led to higher accuracy within groups. However, it is important to distinguish between accuracy within groups and overall accuracy when estimating song repertoire size. Setting the threshold for determining phrase-types higher in the fixed threshold method had the unwanted consequence of greatly diminishing the number of groups formed and thereby underrepresenting the number of phrase-types present in the song. Although the fixed threshold analysis at the 0.75 threshold was relatively accurate, it grouped only 4.2% of the total phrases, greatly decreasing potential for practical use. The

LAF method was not particularly accurate (57%) while grouping approximately the same number of phrases as the moving threshold method. I found that the moving threshold method created a large number of groups while being more accurate than any of the different thresholds used in the fixed threshold method.

Nevertheless, I found major issues with relying on the moving threshold method for counting song repertoire. The average group size was far lower when compared to the fixed threshold method. I propose that such a discrepancy is likely due to the placement of the same phrase in multiple groups which was allowed in the fixed threshold method but not in the moving threshold method. Furthermore, only 29% of the total phrases recorded were grouped and a fixed threshold of 0.65 was not much more successful with just 36% of phrases grouped.

This problem is likely the result of many unsuccessful and missed groupings. An example is shown in Figure 1, where despite fulfilling every requirement for being considered to be of the same phrase-type, none of the different methods and thresholds grouped any of these three phrases together. This resulted from a low correlation factor of 0.61 for the first and second phrases. Furthermore, the first syllable of the third phrase was not detected by the WarbleR package making the grouping of the third phrase with the previous two impossible.

Some variability in accuracy also occurred. I propose that such variability is tied to phrase length. Figure 2 illustrates a positive correlation between phrase length and accuracy. I hypothesize that the trend could be due to fewer long phrases, decreasing the number of possible groupings as phrase length increases. At lower phrase lengths, differences between two phrases are also likely less pronounced and therefore more difficult for programs to accurately differentiate.

Overall, I conclude that while basic computer analysis of bird song has upside, there is still a need for direct oversight to ensure the accuracy of results. The methods used in this experiment were not capable of analyzing the song fully autonomously. Therefore, further research is necessary to confidently determine the precise repertoire size in Gray Catbirds as well as efficient methods of measuring repertoire size. Larger experimental populations may also offer the opportunity to explore the range of repertoires likely present in the wild.

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NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC., 74th ANNUAL MEETING, OCTOBER 2, 2021

The 74th Annual Meeting of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc. (NYSOA) was held via Zoom on Saturday, October 2, 2021. (This year's annual meeting was hosted by the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society which provided a Zoom tour and presentation by the Kelly Adirondack Center before the Saturday morning delegates meeting, and a Friday evening Zoom program about the effect of climate change on Northeast montane birds by Jason Hill of the Vermont Center for Ecosystem Studies.)

President Shirley Shaw called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Instead of a roll call of club names, the Secretary confirmed that a quorum—10% of the possible number of delegates—was present. Greg Lawrence made a motion to approve the draft minutes from the 2020 annual meeting, which had been circulated previously. Jerry Thurn seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

President's Report – Shirley Shaw

Shirley Shaw summarized her report which was presented in full on pages 8-10 in full meeting documents. She noted that it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as NYSOA board president the last two years.

[To access the full meeting documents which will be referenced through these annual meeting minutes, visit: <https://nybirds.org/docs2021/>].

Treasurer's Report, Finance Committee Report, and Audit Report – Mary Jane Dugan, Andy Mason

(10:05 AM) The full text of these three reports is available on pages 11-15 in the annual meeting documents. Mary Jane first highlighted the results of the 2020 Audit Committee report on page 15. The 2020 NYSOA Audit Committee report stated, "We have examined the financial statements of the New York State Ornithological Association, Inc., as of December 31, 2020, as provided to us by the Association's Treasurer, and in our opinion, these statements present fairly the financial condition of the Association on December 31, 2020, and the results of its operations for the year then ended." Members of the Audit Committee were Stephen Chang, Thomas Burke and Peter Capainolo. Mary Jane then summarized the Treasurer's Report highlighting the General Operating Fund Activity on pages 13-14. She noted that there was an approximately \$12K shortfall in budgeted income, with \$18,684.97 received income compared with \$30,810.00 budgeted income. However, on the expense side, actual expenses of \$23,420.42 were significantly less than the budgeted \$30,464.00 resulting in an excess of expense over income of \$4,885.45. This was attributed to various impacts from the COVID pandemic. We also published five issues of *The Kingbird* in 2020 in order to catch up instead of four per year which does impact expenses. *The Kingbird* comprised 70% of NYSOA expenses in 2020. Ongoing *Kingbird* costs will also be mitigated

by subscribers choosing the digital edition instead of paper. Andy Mason noted that there was nothing more to report from the Finance Committee.

DEC Report – Ashley Meyer (for Matt Palumbo)

(10:10 AM) Shirley noted that the full text of NYSDEC's report to NYSOA was listed as a separate document. This document is also available at <https://nybirds.org/docs2021/>.

Ashley reported on behalf of Matt Palumbo. The above report from Matt reviewed all the grant-funded projects underway in the Avian Unit including US Fish & Wildlife Service projects. Ashley offered some additional highlights and updates. The species listing status is still under review. To see which species are being considered for a change of status, review the submitted DEC report. The grassland bird strategy is being finalized for a five-year period covering how DEC will undertake and approve grassland management and restoration along with its partners. Partners include USDA and USFWS as well as Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ducks Unlimited, and Audubon New York. To request copies of the grassland bird strategy, contact Ashley Meyer who is the DEC coordinator for this work. NYSDEC is reviewing energy siting projects with nearly 70 projects submitted. The endangered and threatened species mitigation bank fund allows for large-scale renewable energy projects to pay a fee to offset unavoidable impacts to listed species. These are largely in grassland habitats. The hope is that the mitigation funding will help NYSDEC meet goals for grassland habitat work and mitigate impacts to the Golden Eagle. Nicole Campbell, another new avian biologist, will be working on these renewable energy projects. For follow up questions, email Ashley Meyer at ashley.meyer@dec.ny.gov. The single chat question asked why Rusty Blackbird is not a listed species in New York. Ashley asked for an email follow up so that she could look further into that question.

New York Breeding Bird Atlas – Kathryn Schneider

(10:18 AM) Kathryn Schneider, co-chair of the Atlas Steering Committee, substituted for Julie Hart along with Andy Mason to report on the NYSOA Atlas Fund. The full report is on pages 22-24. Andy Mason asked to report on the financial matters first. The Atlas 2020 Fund was established by NYSOA to accept and disburse funds for the Atlas that are outside of the funds that the Atlas receives from other governmental sources. As of the end of June 2020 quarter, there was about \$30K in the Fund. Kathy notes that she is a last-minute substitute due to Julie's illness. Julie did submit an extensive report found on pages 16-24. Kathy illustrated highlights of this report with a screen share of the data table on page 16, as shown below.

Highlights noted were a 54% increase in atlasers with 1,510 in 2019 and 2,310 in 2020; two new species confirmed breeding in NYS; and overall excellent participation by birders in New York. An online kickoff meeting was held in April with breakout rooms that were very popular, and this same technique was also used in the bi-monthly Atlas town halls. The outreach subcommittee set up themes

for the year to focus on coverage gaps such as nighttime species, cryptic species, and grassland species. The Atlas Insider has 2800 subscribers and comes out monthly between March and August. NYSOA members are encouraged to review these since there is great content on New York bird species and the Atlas project. A Big Atlas Weekend was held at the end of June in coordination with other ongoing breeding bird atlases in Maine, North Carolina, and Maryland-DC.

Metric	2021	2020	Increase
Atlasers	2,330	1,510	54%
Total person-hours	4,405,997 (503 yrs)	2,595,470 (296 yrs)	71%
Unique hours	186,293 (21 yrs)	108,766 (12 yrs)	71%
Complete checklists	248,289	104,746	137%
Total observations	4,348,987	1,800,000	142%
Species confirmed	217	215	1%

Over 1000 atlasers (435 in NY) participated in this weekend event and made 6169 confirmations (records of confirmed breeding). Each state organized challenges that focused efforts on Atlas goals. Winners received a free course from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology Bird Academy. There was also an interstate competition to select an overall winner—the Maine BBA—that received a trophy. Everyone involved thought it was a fun and successful event and we hope to expand to other Atlas projects in 2022. See the Atlas website for details: www.ebird.org/atlasny. Regional coordinators are working on plans for 2022 for coverage gaps and training needs in their areas and developing block profiles to tempt birders to cover certain blocks. The sponsor a species project was very successful bringing in over \$30K in donations. Additional assistance with development and fund raising is still being sought. Two new groups are being formed. The Data Review Working Group will work in the winter to review data. Original observations will not be removed but breeding/behavior codes will be reinterpreted. A second group will be working on the final product whether it will be a book and/or a website and how to fund it in consultation with likely users of the Atlas data. Julie is available to answer questions by email as always at: Julie.Hart@dec.ny.gov. There is still a need for additional regional coordinators.

Delayed until later in the meeting, Bob Spahn added additional comments which are summarized here. In Bob’s observation, nearly all of the numbers in the BBA Summary Table presented are actually not directly relatable to the BBA due to the data input methodology in place. The final numbers will not be known until after the data are reviewed and corrected which will involve considerable effort. Bob urged that knowledgeable birders volunteer to help the BBA Records Review Committee currently being established.

Awards – Jerry Thurn

(10:30 AM) Shirley thanked Bill Ostrander for serving as the Awards Chairperson for several years. Jerry has now stepped into that role. Jerry has been reviewing the statewide rare bird alerts to be able to send out certificates of appreciation to property owners who have supported rare bird observers. Jerry reviewed the various awards that NYSOA presents and offered his email address for any questions (geraldthurn@gmail.com). Shirley noted that our award presentations were paused by our having virtual annual meetings and that we hope to resume awards in 2022.

Emanuel Levine Memorial Award – Shai Mitra

(10:35 AM) Details were offered on page 25 of the meeting documents. Shai noted that this award is given annually for the best article that year in *The Kingbird*. The award for 2020 is being given to NYSARC for their presentation of the 2017 report in *The Kingbird*.

The Kingbird Report – Shai Mitra

(10:37 AM) Details were offered on page 25 of the meeting documents. Shirley noted Shai's work as editor of *The Kingbird*. Last year was a major milestone to initiate digital publication. This has been a great success with a bit of a learning curve with some members accidentally selecting digital, but these were worked out. Many people seem to enjoy getting this publication digitally, saving printing and mailing expenses for NYSOA. Credit was given to Carena Pooth for encouraging this move. We did publish five issues in 2020 and will do that again in 2021 to catch up with the backlog of the publication. Credit was given to Patricia Lindsay's ongoing work in many aspects of *The Kingbird* production. The regional editors were also thanked for their valuable work.

New York Birders Report – Joan Collins

(10:43 am) Details were offered on pages 26-27. Joan reported that this past year, we published 60 pages across the quarterly issues with a focus on the Atlas featuring excellent content from Julie Hart. Andy Mason's content was also appreciated as were the articles by young birders. Profile pieces are popular as are the state and county listing reports. The annual winter finch forecast will be in the next issue. Book reviews are especially welcome as are reviews of birding apps or equipment. Thanks to Carena Pooth and Kathy Schneider for proof reading. Joan encouraged people to choose the digital option for the colored photos and especially the many weblinks. The paper version also lags by several weeks behind the digital version in distribution. The digital version also saves the NYSOA printing and mailing costs. Joan noted that this will be her seventh year as editor but then she will take a break by the April 2022 issue so a new editor is being sought.

Bylaws – Bob Spahn

(10:47 AM) Details are on page 28. Bob did an overview of the work of the bylaws

committee to consider potential changes, noting that none were urgent and some needed board discussion. He referred to page 28 for details. Bob highlighted the conflict of interest requirement maybe needing reduction from all special committee members to only special committee chairs. The other issue is whether the bylaws should reflect a faster way of making bylaw changes. Currently four months prior to a meeting, changes would be presented with a lag between annual meetings. The bylaws committee feels that bylaws should not be rapidly changed. The next issue is regarding virtual annual meetings which are currently allowed under NYS law for membership meetings until the end of 2021. Unclear is how this might affect the option for hybrid or Zoom delegate meetings in 2022 and beyond.

Field Trips Report – Greg Lawrence, Joan Collins

(11:00 AM) Greg reported on behalf of Mary Beth Warburton, saying that there are plans underway for a winter field trip in the Adirondacks. Julie Hart has agreed to come as our speaker for a gathering sometime in February. Joan noted that Julie and her husband are confirmed and said that Julie gave an excellent talk in 2020.

Checklists, County & State Listing – Carena Pooth

(11:04 AM) Details are on pages 29 and 30. The AOS 67th supplement came out in June. The main change is Mew Gull now split as Common Gull and Short-billed Gull. Passerines were reshuffled from shrikes to waxwings. Changes are already made on the online checklist. The NYSARC checklist added an asterisk for Trumpeter Swan breeding, spotted by Julie Hart. This was another record year with 132 County Listing participants. The compilation is on the website on the county listing page. The life list record for New York State which has sat at 446 for years was finally broken by Gail Benson with a total of 450.

Website and Information Services – Carena Pooth

(11:10 AM) Details are on pages 31 and 32. The biggest change was transitioning NYSOA membership management from spreadsheet record keeping to an online web-based system that allows administrators to make changes online, with the big benefit of members being able to access their own profiles and make their own updates. Membership payments and donations are being handled by AffiniPay instead of PayPal. The goal next year is to get both *New York Birders* and *The Kingbird* digital editions online for downloading. Another goal is a NYSOA article library online for club newsletter editors to download shared content. Carena also noted the most popular items on the website are the field checklist, the CBC calendar, NYSARC pages, county and state listing pages, *The Kingbird* archives, and the “About Us” page. Thanks were given to Carena for all her work setting up Wild Apricot. Carena, in turn, thanked Pat Aitken and Joan Collins for their responsiveness and assistance throughout the project.

Conservation Report – Andy Mason

(11:11 AM) See the report on page 33. Shirley noted Andy's submitted report since he was no longer online, and also noted that Andy sent an email to member clubs asking them to get in touch with him about any local conservation concerns.

Marketing/Publicity Report – Brian Dugan

(11:11 AM) The report is on page 34. An order of 2500 postcards has been received. Contact Brian if you want a supply. An additional order for 1,000 business cards has also been received, as a scaled down version of the postcard. A screen share showed the NYSOA Zazzle items now being offered, linked from the www.nybirds.org website. Alliance for America's Fish & Wildlife website (www.ournatureusa.com/) now lists NYSOA with our logo and is linked to our website. The same linkage is also on the NYSDEC website.

Membership – Pat Aitken

(11:16 AM) Report on page 35. As of September 21, we have 41 member organizations with a check still pending from Queens County Bird Club to bring us to 42 organizations. Some small decline in individual memberships are likely due to the transition to better membership tracking.

New York State Avian Records Committee – Willie D'Anna

(11:18 AM) The report is on page 36. Willie was not present. Shirley noted that two openings will be coming up on the committee next year.

New York State Young Birders' Club – Emily Van Gelder

(11:21 AM) The report is on pages 37-39. Emily gave an overview of the information presented in the report. Carena praised the club coordinators for their work.

Waterfowl Count – Bill Ostrander

(11:27 AM) The waterfowl count was held January 16-26, 2021. More than 353 volunteers counted nearly 400,000 birds. The 2022 dates will be January 15-23. Regional coordinators are needed for Regions 3 (Finger Lakes) and 9 (Lower Hudson Valley). Email Bill at browncreeper9@gmail.com. Data collection via Excel spreadsheets will be compiled regionally and then returned to Bill, as before.

Election of Officers and Directors

(11:30 AM) The slate can be found on page 40. On behalf of the nominating committee, Tim Baird presented the following slate of nominees for officers and directors:

Officers: (one year terms) President: Pat Aitken, Vice President: Andy Mason, Treasurer: Mary Jane Dugan, Recording Secretary: Anne Swaim

Directors: (Terms ending in 2022) Sean Camillieri, Joan Collins
(Terms ending in 2023) Craig Braack, Mike Cooper, Benjamin Van Doren, Greg Lawrence
Brian Dugan offered a motion to approve the slate, seconded by Barbara Butler. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously. Shirley offered congratulations to all those elected.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Shirley Shaw presented the following committee nominees:

Nominating Committee: (Term ending in 2022) Joan Collins (Chair), Anne Swaim, Bob Adamo

Auditing Committee: (Term ending in 2022) Stephen Chang (Chair), Thomas W. Burke, Pete Capainolo
Greg Lawrence offered a motion to approve the slate, seconded by Jerry Thurn. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

None.

New Business

(11:36 AM) Shirley noted specifics for the 2022 meeting to be hosted by Onondaga Audubon, likely at hotel in Liverpool with intent to hold the meeting in person. Anne Swaim asked that future meetings not be held on mornings during prime migration. Pat Aitken agreed and said we should also plan for evening board meetings via Zoom six times a year for two hours on the third Thursday of every month. Our next regularly scheduled board meeting was requested to be held on Thursday, December 9. An email to the board will follow up on board meeting scheduling.

Adjournment

(11:41 AM) A motion to adjourn was made by Bob Adamo, seconded by Steve Melcher. With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Swaim, Recording Secretary

Attendance: 2021 NYSOA Annual Meeting October 2, 2021

Thirty six delegates registered for the meeting; of those, 31 were present, 28% of possible delegates.

Future Annual Meetings

2022: Onondaga Audubon Society, 2023: Saw Mill River Audubon Society.

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

More Common Ravens (*Corvus corax*) Nesting in NYS Department of Transportation's Salt Barns

The North American Breeding Bird Survey shows an increasing trend for Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) in New York State (Pardieck *et al.* 2020). Additionally, eBird also shows an increase in the number of Common Ravens being reported in New York State (Fink *et al.* 2020). These resources in addition to the documented southward expansion of Common Raven in Ontario (Peck 2005), suggest the species is expanding its breeding range in New York State and nesting occurrences are likely to become more common on the Lake Plain (Lazazzero and Adams 2018). Lazazzero and Adams (2018) reported nesting sites during 2017 on or within several types of man-made structures in western New York, including a New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Salt Storage Barn in Sodus, Wayne County, NY.

There were no reports of Common Ravens using any NYSDOT facilities in 2018, 2019, or 2020. Then in the Spring of 2021, two new Common Raven nests were discovered at NYSDOT salt barns in Batavia, Genesee County and Newark, Wayne County (Figs. 1 & 2, p. 372). At both locations, the ravens built their nests in the roofing frames of the salt barn structures. The Batavia pair was observed actively building a nest on 29 March 2021. However, as of 14 April, all activity ceased for unknown reasons at this location. Four adults were observed in the area on 17 December 2021. Two of the birds perched inside the salt barn, while the two others remained outside.

On 29 March 2021 the Newark pair was on eggs. On 14 April 2021, lots of feces and rabbit fur were found on the salt barn floor under the nest. Feathers from a Yellow-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) were also found under the nest. On 3 May 2021, three nestlings were observed in the nest. By 12 May, one of the three nestlings had fledged the nest and was seen flying amongst the roofing beams. A second nestling fledged on 13 May, and the last one fledged on 14 May.

These new nest locations support published accounts that Common Ravens are adaptable, use a diversity of nest substrates, and benefit from resources provided by human activities (Boarman and Heinrich 1999). Range expansion into more densely human populated areas, along the Lake Plain but also other parts of New York State, will likely lead to more opportunities for raven-human interactions, and possibly potential conflicts. But for now, NYSDOT's salt barns have proven to be suitable nesting locations for Common Ravens, with no unmanageable conflicts with the Department's maintenance activities. In fact, they provide a benefit in the form of pigeon deterrents.

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Further Observations of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons in Middletown, Orange County, NY

With great anticipation, in early April of 2021, I began watching for the arrival of the Yellow-crowned Night- Herons (*Nyctanassa violacea*) that have resided in a swamp at 580 Van Burenville Rd. from early spring to mid-summer for the past two years (Depew 2019, Depew 2020). In those years, I had first observed the male on 15 April 2019 and 19 April 2020. The female arrived later and was first seen on 22 April 2019, by fellow birders Scott Baldinger and Bill Fiero, and on 2 May 2020, by me.

As I awaited the herons' arrival during spring 2021, it is important to note that the winter of 2020-21 was snowy, brutally cold at times, and quite windy well into late spring. This seemed to be like the "old fashioned" winter weather that I grew up with, as a native of the region. As the arrival dates noted above came and went without the male's appearance, I wondered whether unfavorable wind conditions may have delayed his migration. I did not give up hope, however, and neither did other local birders who were anxiously awaiting the fifth occurrence of this species in Orange County, according to our Edgar A. Mearns Bird Club records.

The male Yellow-crowned Night-Heron finally appeared on 25 May 2021. I immediately reported the find on eBird's New York Breeding Bird Atlas portal and notified my fellow bird club members. I was elated! The bird was a welcome sight after a long, trying winter. I began to wonder what type of breeding season this would be since he arrived over a month later than in previous years. My past observations indicated that actual mating requires not only the presence of the female, but also several weeks of courtship and nest-building or repair. The nest from two years ago was still intact in spite of harsh winter weather. The male made his usual mating calls from a tree during the first week following his arrival. I visited this location as often as I could, watching for the arrival of the female. Meanwhile, I continued to observe the male as he fed on crayfish, in either the pond near the house, or in the swamp. This year, I observed the bird on 25 and 30 May and 3, 11, and 16 June. Other birders stopped by to observe it on 29 May and 3 and 8 June and recorded their observations in eBird. Despite this relatively thorough coverage, a second bird was never seen this year. The female never arrived, and I will never know what happened to her.

The male began to leave the swamp and pond more often during the second and third week of June. He was foraging and not calling any longer. During the last few times that I observed him, I noticed that his breeding plumage was not as showy. His normally long, yellow crown plumes became shorter, where in past seasons I had seen these plumes reach his shoulder. After 16 June he was not seen again by either me or the owner of the property. I searched through other Orange County eBird checklists to determine if I missed a later sighting but could find none.

I hope that the summer of 2022 will be a better one for Yellow-crowned Night-Heron breeding activity in Middletown, NY. I certainly would like to see a pair actually raise young. It is always possible that next year a different female might bond with the male and become its new mate.

Acknowledgments

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PATCH BIRDING BEAVER LAKE NATURE CENTER

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Beaver Lake Nature Center is an Onondaga County Park located four miles west of Baldwinsville, NY. It encompasses 660 acres. One third is the lake itself. It also has wooded areas, an extensive bog, and some open areas. The varied habitats result in good birding year-round. There are seven main trails which cover nine miles so all habitats are accessible. One trail encircles the lake. Trails are open year-round and the area is mostly flat. There are many places along the lake trail to set up a scope to observe waterfowl.

eBird shows 221 species seen at the park. Thirty-two species of waterfowl, twenty-eight warblers and six owl species have been seen. Eighty species are known breeders including thirteen warblers. A specialty of Beaver Lake are the Saw-whet Owls which are seen on the Bog Trail in late winter to early spring. The bog area in particular has seen a rise in water level in the past two years resulting in some of the cedars, which the Saw-whets prefer to rest in during the day, being damaged. However, they have been observed this year. They are probably breeding but haven't been confirmed yet. Long-eared Owls have been seen there also. Eastern Screech-Owl, Barred Owl, and Great Horned Owl have been confirmed and are seen each year.

After I retired from teaching in Baldwinsville I started to bird more at Beaver Lake and got to know the naturalists. Subsequently I was asked if I would volunteer to do bird walks. I readily agreed and I now conduct morning bird walks Mondays and Tuesdays in April, May, and June to observe the spring migration. I was a music teacher and identifying birds by song came naturally to me. This is an advantage as I can identify unseen warblers to beginning birders on our walks, especially in wooded and brushy areas. Ground breeding warblers such as Hooded and Mourning are common here but hard to see. For a few years we had an inquisitive Ruffed Grouse which would greet anyone who went through his territory. One of my favorite pictures is "Rocky the Grouse" standing on the head of noted bird guide author Richard Crossley as he tried to take photos of him. (See photo p. 371).

In the years since I have been birding here changes in the birds mostly reflect what we see everywhere in the state. There is less activity in fall migration but still enough activity to make it a great destination for birding any time of year.

In addition to the great year-round birding, Beaver Lake Nature Center offers a wide array of other indoor and outdoor activities. Kayaks and canoes are available for rent for private individuals or organized tours. Cross country and snowshoe trails are well marked and equipment is available to those who don't have their own. School group walks and talks are held throughout the school year. Maple sugaring and salamander hunts are popular springtime activities. Wellness

programs are available to young and old participants. Yearly memberships are available with many programs offered, and day passes are available also.

I have now birded at Beaver Lake for almost 30 years and would be happy to guide anyone who would like to join me on a bird walk.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON, SUMMER 2021

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June of 2021 came in a bit drier than average through most of the state, but by July and August nearly everyone was seeing rainfall above—in some cases far above—normal levels. June was generally a bit cooler than average, but both July and August were hotter than normal across the board.

Rainfall, or lack thereof, has its effects on many of the locations that we rely on for bird finding. Low water levels at the right time can attract migrating shorebirds, while higher levels might be an aid to breeding ducks and other water birds. Montezuma NWR in Region 3 reported high counts for several expected species of waterfowl; for most of the neighboring Regions numbers seemed to be about average. Among the more unusual sightings, Snow Geese lingered into June and July in five Regions, a Eurasian Wigeon at Montezuma in Region 3 in late August was surprisingly early, and two Regions reported June Brant, birds bringing up the rear of northbound migration.

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were reported from three locations in Region 3, and two locations from Region 10. I'm tempted to say "only" two Regions reported them this year vs. three in Summer 2020. Four different King Eiders summered in Region 10, all immature males. A female Common Goldeneye with four young provided a rare breeding record for Region 6. Common Mergansers are widespread breeders throughout much of our non-coastal areas, but a flock of 12 on Staten Island in Region 10 was surprising. They often don't show up downstate until the first freeze of winter. Trumpeter Swans seem to be, at minimum, holding their own, with reports coming from five Regions. Upper and Lower Lakes WMA in Region 6 seems to be a major stronghold.

Wild Turkey is apparently the only New York chicken doing well, but one report of a covey of 18 Ruffed Grouse in the town of Van Etten in Region 3 must have been a nice find. Pied-billed Grebes were present in eight Regions, about typical, but high counts in the Region 2 section of Montezuma were about half of what they were last year.

A Eurasian Collared-Dove was at Hamlin Beach in Region 2 on 29 August. One seems to pop up somewhere in the state every year or so and judging by the reactions of birders in other parts of the country, it's nice that they remain as interesting novelties and nothing more. Several upstate Regions mentioned

outbreaks of the moth formerly known as Gypsy. Both Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos responded to the feast and were well represented. Common Nighthawks were mentioned in all 10 Regional reports, no doubt more a function of the timing of both spring and fall migrations than any gains as a breeder. The number of eBird reports of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds always seems surprisingly high to me, but I think people love to report them and homeowners are rightly proud of having them at the feeder. An adult male Rufous at a feeder on eastern Long Island in early August was the only oddball hummer this season.

Two different King Rails were found in Region 1, nice records of a scarce and difficult-to-see bird. Virginia Rails were reported from seven Regions, including a location on the barrier beach of Long Island, where not expected. A high count of 161 Common Gallinules at Montezuma in Region 2 seems like a decent number. Compare with last summer's high of 12 and a high of 296 in 2018. Water level and visibility no doubt have significant effects on numbers found. A Purple Gallinule was at the Jamaica Bay Refuge in Region 10 in early July. All ten Regions recorded Sandhill Crane this summer, a sentence that would have been absurd to write just a few years ago. A high count of 40 was made at Montezuma in Region 3.

The non-coastal Regions reported more or less typical shorebird movements, with late lingerers and early arrivals generally related to water level conditions at the local hotspots. A Black-necked Stilt at Iroquois NWR in Region 1 was surprisingly the only one found state-wide. A juvenile Western Sandpiper at Braddock Bay in Region 2 was a nice find. Wilson's Phalaropes were recorded from five Regions, Red-necked from six, both probably a bit higher than expected.

Upland Sandpipers were widely scattered, occurring in seven Regions, but nowhere were the reports accompanied by positive comments. Just a couple of confirmed breeding sites were mentioned. Piping Plover continue to hang on in Region 5, with two breeding pairs at Sandy Pond.

Birders always hope that hurricanes and tropical storms will transport all manner of exotic and ocean dwelling birds into their local bay or lake, but *Henri* in August 2021 had other ideas. While he delivered few bona fide rarities, *Henri* highlighted how little we know about the normal routes taken by some regularly occurring species. See Shai Mitra's account in the Region 10 report of flocks of 100-plus Hudsonian Godwits on Long Island and in nearby New England.

A couple of Iceland Gulls lingered in the western part of the state, with one in Region 1 on 1 June just making it into the report, and another at Braddock Bay into early July. Two Glaucous Gulls in Region 10 were noteworthy. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were reported from six Regions, including a high of 185 at Robert Moses SP in Region 10 on 28 August. A Franklin's Gull at Braddock Bay in June was the best of the gulls.

About 13 Arctic Terns from the traditional Long Island sites was a good seasonal tally. A count of 500 Roseates in Plum Gut off the north fork of the island is indicative of the strong colony at Great Gull Island. Bridled Terns were reported twice at Hudson Canyon in the waters off Region 10, along with a nice collection

of tubenoses and other pelagic species. A couple of Brown Boobies were also detected from shore through August.

Only modest numbers of Brown Pelicans made it as far north as Long Island this summer but check the Region 10 report for an interesting observation of one flock's movements along the south shore and into New Jersey.

If there was one event that the Summer of 2021 should be remembered for, it would be the incursion of southern wading birds across much of the continent, including New York State. Although we have still not cashed in on the Limpkin Lunacy that seems to be occurring everywhere else, this summer saw an unprecedented irruption of Wood Storks and Roseate Spoonbills. Wood Storks were found in four Regions, including a first for summer in Region 3, an apparent first Regional record for Region 8 and one on Staten Island that succumbed to the dangers of the Amazon (Fulfilment Center).

Lest Wood Storks be allowed to grab the spotlight, a truly unprecedented incursion of Roseate Spoonbills brought birds to five Regions. In Region 4 there were three separate locations reporting spoonbills representing two or three birds, while in Region 10 there were definitely two different birds. One of these went to great lengths to straddle the line between Nassau and Suffolk Counties. The Region 10 editor mentions the "great frustration of conscientious county listers", leaving implied the heedless impetuosity of the rest of us who checked that sucker off ASAP. Interestingly, White Ibis did not seem to get in on the "northeast express"—none were reported from anywhere in the state.

I think it's interesting to speculate on other "southern" wading birds. Great Egrets were everywhere, and Cattle Egrets, Little Blue Herons and even Tricolored Heron put in appearances away from coastal areas. One at Ausable Point in Region 7 represented the first Regional record since 1989. Some of these are to be expected but is it possible that in a year like this, at least some of these birds originate from parts of the country or parts of the world where Wood Storks and Roseate Spoonbills also occur?

Raptor reports were probably about normal, with the exception of continued increases in Bald Eagle numbers and more and more Red-tailed Hawks nesting within the limits of New York City. Unusual records included Swallow-tailed Kites in four Regions and a Swainson's Hawk at the Braddock Bay Hawkwatch on 22 August. A Snowy Owl remained in East Worcester in Region 8 through most of June.

Every Region recorded Red-headed Woodpeckers, including Region 7, where the record was the fifth for the century. In Region 6 a pair was observed enjoying the Gypsy Moth caterpillar feast.

Olive-sided Flycatchers generally got favorable mentions and they were reported from every Region. Both Acadian and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers also seemed to be widely present and in decent quantities. Two White-eyed Vireos at different locations in Region 1 were Regional rarities. Other passerines that seemed to be widespread and with encouraging numbers included Red-eyed Vireo, Cedar Waxwing, and Bank Swallow. Sedge Wrens seemed to be around In

surprisingly good numbers. They were found in nine Regions, with multiples in seven of the nine.

“Winter” finches lingered in small numbers, with Evening Grosbeak and Red Crossbill occurring in six Regions, Pine Siskin in eight. Most unusual was an Evening Grosbeak on Fire Island in Region 10 in mid-June.

Some of our grassland birds also seemed to be doing a little better statewide. Horned Larks and Grasshopper Sparrows received several positive comments and Clay-colored Sparrow is now more numerous and widespread than some of our “traditional” grassland birds, like Vesper Sparrow. Dickcissel also seems to be going through an eastward expansion, with four Regions reporting them. A max of seven was at Croton Point in Region 9 through most of the period. Bill Ostrander in Region 3 mentioned high counts for other sparrows—Chipping, Field, Savannah, and Song. Maybe some positives for a habitat that has been in decline for years.

Continuing the theme of a decent early passerine flight, several Regional editors had positive things to say about the August southbound flight. In Region 1, American Robins and Bobolinks made impressive showings, and in Region 6 Jeff Bolsinger wrote “the summer ended with the most active southbound songbird migration seen in several years.” Check his Regional account also for comments regarding the development of new solar farms and the conflict that more and more of us have between clean energy and the disturbance of valuable grasslands.

Although the Summer of 2021 did not bring any shocking rarities to New York State, there were a lot of interesting and seldom-seen birds for us to ogle. I think Bird of the Season should go to Roseate Spoonbill, not to any one individual, but to the half dozen or more who made themselves accessible to so many of us. What’s not to love about a tall, pink, tropical bird? Can our first New York Flamingo be far behind?

Thanks for reading and check out those Regional reports where all the interesting nuggets are found.

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Much of the data in the Regional reports is sourced from eBird:
eBird Basic Dataset. Version: EBD_relAug-2021. Cornell Lab of Ornithology,
Ithaca, New York. Aug 2021.

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REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER

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June 2021 was warm and sunny, making it the fifth warmest June on record. The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 71.3° F, 4.3° above normal, with 1.77" of precipitation, 1.6" below average. Though the temperatures in July were close to average the deluges of rain throughout the month made it the third wettest July on record. The mean temperature was 71.1°, 0.6° below average. Precipitation was 7.49", 4.26" above average. Summer heat and humidity turned on in August, making it the warmest August on record. The average temperature was 75.7°, 5.3° above normal. Rainfall was 3.68", 0.45" above normal.

The summer season's highlights likely benefited from increased field effort as birders participated in the second year of the New York Breeding Bird Atlas III project. As many explored new patches or simply increased their summertime birding to "complete" atlas blocks, we saw some interesting finds and some species with more reports than in typical years.

A roundup of the less common and/or declining breeding species typically tracked in this summer season report reads like recent years. The landfill adjacent to Tillman Road WMA was again the only location where Upland Sandpiper was documented in breeding habitat. Beyond some late spring migrants and early fall migrants, a few Common Nighthawks were found in Buffalo and Jamestown, which have been the only summer locations in recent years. Sandhill Cranes were present at Iroquois NWR and vicinity, as usual in recent years but without any confirmed breeding that we are aware of. Single cranes were also reported from Dayton where they have been documented in summer before, as well as from Krull County Park and the Town of Chautauqua. Merlin families were documented in at least two locations, with likely more nesting locations present in the Region. Sedge Wren was well represented with reports from eight locations throughout the Region, including carrying nesting material at Knox Farm SP. Clay-colored Sparrows bred at their regular Krull County Park location again, with up to eight being reported there. A singing male was also reported for over a month at John White WMA, suggesting probable breeding activity. There were no Golden-winged Warbler reports in the breeding season again. Will any breeding be documented for this third atlas project? Prothonotary Warbler was documented at Tonawanda WMA and Iroquois NWR, as usual.

Many birders showed up at Iroquois NWR in June eager to see the **King Rail** that was found in late May at Kumpf Marsh. The rail's presence was initially

kept on the down low, but the rush was on after text alerts came out in early June. The rail was initially very vocal and sometimes visible in early June, then mostly a “heard only” occurrence after that. The last report was in early July. On 10 June, Karen Lee Lewis and Marilyn Feuerstein were watching and photographing a family of Virginia Rails at Tillman Road WMA when they were startled to see a much larger **King Rail** appear. Lewis managed to get a few photographs during the brief encounter and this rail was not observed again. It will be interesting to see if there are more occurrences in the years ahead, perhaps representing a northward push of a southern species. Or perhaps this species is present in low numbers most years and birders found them this year in accessible locations.

Tom Hessler photographed an adult Yellow-crowned Night-Heron at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo on 9 June. Likely the same bird was found nearby again 20-21 June. A juvenile Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was photographed at a pond in Amherst on 21 August by Amanda Renzi. While waders are known to occasionally wander, it is interesting to note the presence of multiple birds in the breeding season, as well as another juvenile photographed nearby in Ontario in July. Black-crowned Night-Herons are regular in the vicinity of the Niagara River, with colonies at Motor Island and above Niagara Falls on the Ontario side. The Motor Island heronry was inspected in late June and few Black-crowns were present, which was consistent with the thought from NYSDEC staff that nesting was sparse there this year. I am unaware of how the colony above Niagara Falls fared. These locations should be checked in coming years to see if any Yellow-crowns are breeding.

Several species of spring migrating shorebirds trickled into early June including Black-bellied Plover, a flock of 32 Semipalmated Sandpipers, Ruddy Turnstones, Least Sandpipers, flocks of up to 90 Semipalmated Sandpipers, Solitary Sandpipers, and a Greater Yellowlegs. Additionally, a **Black-necked Stilt** from late May continued 1-2 June at Iroquois NWR and Andy Guthrie and Jay McGowan found two Red-necked Phalaropes there on 4 June. Wilson’s Phalaropes were seen at Iroquois NWR on 1-3 June and in Somerset on 2 June, wrapping up an impressive spring showing for this species in the Region. The return “fall” flight of shorebirds included just one report of Whimbrel at Buffalo Harbor, three reports of Willets, and one Wilson’s Phalarope from Chautauqua Lake. Peter Yoerg heard the call of a nocturnally migrating Upland Sandpiper over his Buffalo home. A drawdown of West Wood Marsh at Tonawanda WMA resulted in favorable shorebird habitat that attracted decent numbers of fall migrants. This area produced several less-common species including up to two Stilt Sandpipers, up to four Baird’s Sandpipers, the Region’s only summer record of White-rumped Sandpiper, up to two Short-billed Dowitchers, and a nice count of 29 Wilson’s Snipe.

Four Lesser Black-backed Gulls at Olcott in mid-June was an unusually high count; there were several other June reports and then one in late August. Iceland Gulls lingered just long enough to make the summer season report with two sightings along Lake Ontario on 1 June. Caspian Terns did well in their fifth

consecutive year breeding in Buffalo Harbor as evidenced with a count of 372 on 15 July. Common Terns continue breeding in Buffalo Harbor and at a few spots in the Niagara River with monitoring by NYSDEC staff. Black Terns bred in the Iroquois NWR and adjacent WMAs, as usual, while a storm event on 17-18 August was likely responsible for putting some migrants down at Red House Lake at Allegany SP as documented by Kyle Brock.

There was the usual smattering of less common (in early summer) dabbling duck species, mostly at Batavia WWTP and Iroquois NWR and the adjacent WMAs. A Lesser Scaup summered at Crab Hollow SF in Allegany County, which led Karl Schmidt to wonder if it might be injured. There were relatively few summer reports for diving duck species. Michael Herrmann found a Trumpeter Swan in Buffalo on 19 June that marked an unusual sighting location and date. A few were reported around Iroquois NWR in early June, where they have bred in recent years, but it is uncertain if any bred there this year.

An American White Pelican was observed flying along the Lake Erie shoreline at Evangola SP on 27 June for the only report this summer. There were a handful of sightings of one or two Black Vultures around Lewiston, where regular year-round but still without other evidence of breeding. Two Black Vulture sightings in Erie County in June and one in Orleans County in August were unusual for both the location and time of year. Joel Strong photographed a Cattle Egret in Olcott on 5 June.

Olive-sided Flycatchers made a good showing in August with several reports throughout the Region, including some with two birds. Flocking American Robins and Bobolinks at Tonawanda WMA put on impressive early morning shows when they left their nightly roost in the marsh with up to 1,100 and 1,930 being reported, respectively. A Gray-cheeked Thrush photographed by Willie D'Anna and Betsy Potter in their Wilson yard set a Regional record for a late spring migrant. Cindy Vars found two Evening Grosbeaks, an immature and adult, in Allegany County. Two summer reports of Pine Siskins were made on 4 and 10 June. Reports of up to four Vesper Sparrows came from Sheridan, Chautauqua County and up to three in Orleans County. This species has become quite scarce in the Region during the breeding season. Grasshopper Sparrows made a nice summer showing throughout the Region with up to five reported from the landfill adjacent to Tillman Road WMA.

Two reports of Yellow-breasted Chat from Chautauqua County and a third from Iroquois NWR, all in early June, represented a higher than usual occurrence of this species for the Region in recent years. A fall migrant Golden-winged Warbler from Forestville, Chautauqua County on 29 August represented the only summer report for this species. The hybrid "Brewster's" Warbler was reported from Holland, Erie County on 25 June, possibly a local breeder. Tom Kerr banded a juvenile "Lawrence's" Warbler at Beaver Meadow Audubon Center on 6 July. He also banded a Tennessee Warbler at the same location on 22 July, which may represent a very early migrant or perhaps a rare local breeder. Prothonotary Warblers were reported from Iroquois NWR and nearby Tonawanda WMA,

known breeding locations for this species. Willie D’Anna and Betsy Potter photographed a very early Cape May warbler at their Wilson home on 2 August, which was followed by several early reports of this species in the Region. Three summer reports of Prairie Warbler were a nice showing with an impressive four reported from Glenwood, Erie County, on 7 July. Rounding out the breeding bird highlights were up to three Dickcissels at an overgrown field in Somerset, Niagara County. Two males were often seen countersinging from opposite sides of the road and photographs of a female carrying nesting material made for a nice breeding confirmation for the NYS Breeding Bird Atlas.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACNC – Audubon Community Nature Center, Jamestown, CHAU; **AISP** – Allegany SP, CATT; **AmSP** – Amherst SP, ERIE; **BeSP** – Beaver I SP, ERIE; **BMAC** – Beaver Meadow Audubon Center, WYOM; **BufH** – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; **BuSP** – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; **BWWTP** – Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, GENE; **ChauL** – Chautauqua L, CHAU; **DH** – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; **EvSP** – Evangola SP, ERIE; **FNSP** – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; **HBWMA** – Hanging Bog WMA, ALLE; **INWR** – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; **JWWMA** – John White WMA, GENE; **Krull CP** – Krull CP, NIAG; **LBSP** – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; **LESP** – Lake Erie SP, CHAU; **MI** – Motor I, NR, ERIE; **NR** – Niagara R; **OOWMA** – Oak Orchard WMA, GENE/ORLE; **PB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **RWNP** – Reinstein Woods Nature Pres, ERIE; **TBNP** – Times Beach Nature Pres, Buffalo, ERIE; **Tift NP** – Tift Nature Pres, ERIE; **TRWMA** – Tillman Road WMA, ERIE; **TWMA** – Tonawanda WMA, GENE/NIAG; **WoBSP** – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; **WTSP** – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Mute Swan: 9 WTSP 10 Jun; max 10, 9 LBSP 26 Jun, 11 Aug; max 10 PB 25 Jul.

Trumpeter Swan: 1, 2 INWR 3, 7 Jun; Buffalo ERIE 19 Jun (MH, KR), unusual location; only reports.

Wood Duck: max 111, 289, 113 TWMA 31 Jul, 8, 21 Aug.

Blue-winged Teal: 1-4 INWR 1-20 Jun; 5 TWMA 30 Jul; max 22 BWWTP 28 Aug.

Northern Shoveler: 4 INWR 5 Jun; ACNC 16 Jun; 2, 1 BWWTP 13 Jun, 3 Jul; max 27 BWWTP 28 Aug.

Gadwall: INWR 15 Jun; max 3, 2, 2 BWWTP 26 Jun, 3, 18 Jul.

American Wigeon: 2, 2 INWR 2 Jun, 30 Jul; 1, max 6 BWWTP 13 Jun, 30 Aug; BufH 10 Jul; BeSP 18 Jul.

American Black Duck: 2, max 3 INWR 7, 8 Jun, 1 Jul; 1, 1, BWWTP 13 Jun, 3 Jul; Buffalo NR 26 Jun; max 3 Mayville CHAU 18 Aug.

Northern Pintail: max 2 INWR 4 Jun; max 2 BWWT 30 Aug.

Green-winged Teal: 6, 12 INWR 4 Jun, 21 Aug; LBSP 16 Jun; 1, 12 Tift NP 7 Jul, 31 Aug; max 12 TWMA 30 Jul; 11 WTSP 19 Aug.

Redhead: 2 INWR 8 Jun; max 3, 2, 1 BWWT 26 Jun, 3 Jul, 31 Jul – 30 Aug BufH 17 Aug.

Ring-necked Duck: BWWT 1-8 Jun, 4 Jul; only reports.

Greater Scaup: Cuba L ALLE 1 Jun (GC), late; BufH 21 Jul (SS).

Lesser Scaup: Crab Hollow SF ALLE 3 Jun – 8 Aug (KS); unusual summering location; possibly injured.

White-winged Scoter: 2 BeSP 6 Jun (GL), late.

Bufflehead: INWR 2 Jun; only report.

Common Merganser: 1+10 yg Elma ERIE 30 Jun; 10 DH 17 Jul; 24 BufH 18 Jul; 26 Olean CATT 16 Aug; max 41 Sturgeon Point ERIE 16 Aug.

Red-breasted Merganser: LBSP 6 Aug; only report.

Ruddy Duck: Bemus Pt ChauL 10 Jun; max 23, 25, 25 BWWT 26 Jun, 18 Jul, 8 Aug.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 10 TWMA 16 Jun.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 278 eBird reports; decent showing.

Black-billed Cuckoo: 168 eBird reports.

Common Nighthawk: 2 INWR 4 Jun; last Forestville CHAU 8 Jun; Buffalo ERIE 24 Jun; 3, 1, 2 Jamestown CHAU 29 Jun, 4, 20 Jul; arr Orangeville WYOM 7 Aug; 2 Porter NIAG 17 Aug; max 3 BeSP, Lancaster ERIE 28 Aug; DH 30 Aug.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

KING RAIL: INWR 1 Jun – 3 Jul (TK, mob), continuing from late May; TRWMA 10 Jun (KLL ph!, MF); rare; *see intro*.

Virginia Rail: max 10 TRWMA 11 Jun (KLL); 2+5 yg ACNC 18 Jun; 6 Tift NP 26 Jun; 5 Tift NP 5 Jul; 4, 3 BMAC 20 Jul, 30 Aug.

Sora: max 2 Machias CATT 13 Jun; max 2 ACNC 13 Jun, 15 Jul; North Collins ERIE 22 Jul; Dayton CATT 14 Aug; 2 BMAC 26 Aug.

Common Gallinule: 8 INWR 4 Jun; max 20 Alexander GENE 5 Jul; 12 TWMA 28 Aug.

American Coot: max 9 INWR 15 Jun; West Seneca ERIE 15-31 Jul; ACNC 18 Jul.

Sandhill Crane: Dayton CATT 1, 18 Jun, 11 Jul, 8 Aug; 4 INWR 7 Jun; Krull CP 25 Jun

(JB, JF); max 10, 9 TWMA 31 Jul, 14 Aug; Chautauqua CHAU 22 Aug.

BLACK-NECKED STILT: INWR 1-2 Jun (mob), continuing from late May.

Black-bellied Plover: last 3 INWR 2 Jun; arr 4 BufH 29 Aug.

American Golden-Plover: arr 2 Newfane NIAG 21 Aug (JH).

Semipalmated Plover: last 32 INWR 4 Jun; arr WoBSP 3 Aug; max 27 TWMA 10 Aug.

Killdeer: max 46 Shelby ORLE 18 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: max 2 TRWMA 9 Jun, regular breeding location; NFC Buffalo ERIE 14 Aug (PY).

Whimbrel: BufH 14 Aug (JMi); only report.

Ruddy Turnstone: last 2 BufH 1 Jun; max 6 PB 6 Aug; 1, 4 BufH 11, 29 Aug; Barcelona CHAU 12 Aug.

Stilt Sandpiper: arr 2, 1, 1 TWMA 29 Jul, 2, 25 Aug.

Sanderling: arr 3 WoBSP 22 Jul; max 11 BufH 29 Aug.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr 1, max 4 TWMA 16, 26 Aug (JSt, PY); Chautauqua CHAU 27 Aug (BR); 3 BufH 30 Aug (JK).

Least Sandpiper: last INWR 4 Jun; arr 2 Amherst ERIE 30 Jun; max 73 TWMA 6 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: TWMA 16 Aug (JSt); only report.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr Elba ORLE 20 Jul; max 28 TWMA 18 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: 82 BWWT 3 Jun; max 90, last 60 INWR 4, 8 Jun; arr Amherst ERIE 11 Jul; 20 TWMA 20 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr BufH 17 Jul; DH 8 Aug; 2, 1 TWMA 13, 25 Aug; Pomfret CHAU 16 Aug.

Wilson's Snipe: max 26 TWMA 7 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: 2 Como Lake CP ERIE 6 Jun (SA ph!), late; arr INWR 4 Jul; max 9 CSWMA 20 Jul; 6, 6 TWMA 28 Jul, 8 Aug; 6 Amherst ERIE 27 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 6 INWR 10 Jul; max 70, 47 TWMA 30 Jul, 2 Aug.

Willet: arr 2 DH 14 Jul (GV); PB 6 Aug; 2 Barcelona CHAU 12 Aug.

Greater Yellowlegs: BWWT 3 Jun (JSo ph!); Somerset NIAG 3, 7 Jun (JSt), late; arr Amherst ERIE 7 Jul; max 24 INWR 30 Jul.

Wilson's Phalarope: INWR 1-3 Jun (BM); Somerset NIAG 2 Jun (JSt); arr ChauL 18, 19 Aug (TL); following good numbers in spring migration.

Red-necked Phalarope: 2 INWR 4 Jun (AGu, JMc), rare.

Bonaparte's Gull: max 4 BufH 3 Jul; DH 14 Jul; few reports.

Iceland Gull: last Krull CP, Wilson NIAG 1 Jun (JSt, WD).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Barcelona CHAU 1 Jun (TL); max 4 Olcott NIAG 15 Jun (JSt); Somerset NIAG 19 Jun (JSt); WoBSP 28 Aug (SB).

Great Black-backed Gull: single digit counts along L Erie and NR.

Caspian Tern: 20, 38 INWR 1 Jun, 30 Jul; max 372 BufH 15 Jul, breeding colony.

Black Tern: BWWT 3 Jun; max 17 TWMA 12 Jun; 5 INWR 1 Jul; BeSP 9 Jul; 1, 7 AISP 18, 19 Aug (KB), unusual location.

Common Tern: max 300, 185 Buffalo NR 27 Jun, 18 Jul; AISP 18 Aug (KB), unusual location.

LOONS – PARAKEET

Common Loon: Long Pt SP CHAU 4 Jun; only report.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 1200 BufH 28 Aug.

American White Pelican: EvSP 27 Jun (MN), flyover.

American Bittern: max 3 INWR 3 Jun; Chautauqua CHAU 7 Jun, 28 Aug; 2 Alexander GENE 5 Jul; Alder Bottom WMA CHAU 2 Aug.

Least Bittern: 1, 2 INWR 2 Jun, 14 Jul; TWMA 4 Jun, 28 Jul, 8, 28 Aug; 1, 2 ACNC 11 Jun, 18 Jul; TRWMA 11 Jun; Chautauqua CHAU 20 Jun; max 3 Tift NP 22 Jun, 2 Jul.

Great Blue Heron: 44 INWR 5 Jun; max 100 MI 25 Jun (MM) at heronry.

Great Egret: 46 INWR 2 Jun; 70 MI 25 Jun, at heronry; max 120 TWMA 14 Aug.

Cattle Egret: Olcott NIAG 5 Jun (JSt); only report.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 10 MI 25 Jun, few nests at location this year.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: ad Buffalo ERIE 9, 20, 21 Jun (TH, AGa, SB); juv Amherst ERIE 21 Aug (AR); *intro*.

Black Vulture: 1, 2, 1, 1, 1 Lewiston NIAG 14, 16 Jun, 18, 27 Jul, 14 Aug, regular location year-round; Hamburg ERIE 17 Jun (SS, MC); Buffalo ERIE 23 Jun (KR), last two locations unexpected for season; Carlton ORLE 12 Aug (JSt), unusual location.

Osprey: max 6 Franklinville CATT 12 Jul; max 6, 6 BeSP 22 Jul, 7 Aug; widespread.

Bald Eagle: max 5 Bennett Beach ERIE 16 Jul.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 3 Krull CP, 2 Mayville CHAU 18 Jul; 2 Kiantone CHAU 19 Jul; 3 Como Lake CP ERIE, Tift NP 31 Jul; 3 FNSP 20 Aug; 3 Sturgeon Pt ERIE 21 Aug; max 6 EvSP 22 Aug; 3 LESP 23 Aug.

Merlin: max 5 Amherst ERIE 7 Jun (CH); 4 Buffalo ERIE 13 Jun (PY); adults with young.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr WoBSP 18 Aug; TBNP, BeSP 20 Aug; PB 25 Aug; 2 HBWMA 26, 29 Aug; Crab Hollow SF ALLE 27 Aug; 2 Black Creek ALLE 29 Aug; good showing.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last RWNP 4 Jun; arr 2 WoBSP 14 Aug (SB); 7 other Aug reports.

Acadian Flycatcher: max 11 Chestnut Ridge CP ERIE 5 Jun (CB, JC); last East Amherst ERIE 8 Jun (MM), late migrant; several reported throughout reg in Jul; last Chestnut Ridge CP, 2 INWR 8 Aug.

White-eyed Vireo: East Aurora ERIE 19 Jul (JMi); Knox Farm SP ERIE 20 Aug (AGa); rare summer sightings.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr WoBSP 22 Aug.

Horned Lark: max 30 Alabama GENE 11 Jul.

Purple Martin: 40+102 yg BWWT 29 Jun (CM), successful nesting colony established; max 750 OOWMA 27 Aug (AH), apparent night roost.

Tree Swallow: 300 TWMA 2 Aug; max 500 BWWT 15 Aug.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: max 65 BuSP 18 Aug.

Bank Swallow: max 50 Shelby ORLE 3 Aug.

Cliff Swallow: 17 BeSP 10 Jul; 20 Buffalo NR ERIE 23 Jul; 14 Dayton CATT 26 Jul; max 60 Grand Island ERIE 12 Aug.

Barn Swallow: max 200 Barcelona CHAU 18 Aug.

Sedge Wren: INWR 10 Jun (CM); 2 Sheridan CHAU 11 Jun (GV); 2 Knox Farm SP ERIE 17-30 Jun, 20 Jul, 7 Aug (MN, mob); 2 Newfane NIAG 19 Jun (JSt); Gainesville WYOM 26 Jun – 10 Jul (GL); Dayton CATT 12 Jul (GV); Attica WYOM 19 Jul (CR); Pembroke GENE 21 Jul (CR); good showing.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Canadaway Creek WMA CHAU 26 Aug; Forestville CHAU, Jamestown CHAU 31 Aug.

Gray-checked Thrush: last Wilson NIAG 21-22 Jun (WD, BP, ph!), record late.

Swainson's Thrush: last 22 NFCs Orchard Park ERIE 3 Jun (CB); New Hudson ALLE 3 Jun; 1, 2, 1 AISP 6 Jun, 17, 26 Jul; last two

possible breeding locations; arr NFC Orchard Park ERIE 15 Aug (CB).

American Robin: max 535, 1100 TWMA 31 Jul, 21 Aug (JSt), departing night roost in marsh.

Cedar Waxwing: max 110 LBSP 1 Jun.

Evening Grosbeak: 2 Andover ALLE 12 Aug (CV), reported as adult and immature.

Pine Siskin: Lockport NIAG 4 Jun; Ashford CATT 10 Jun; only reports.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Clay-colored Sparrow: max 4, 1, 8 Krull CP 5 Jun, 10 Jul, 1 Aug, regular location; Yates ORLE 13 Jun; JWWMA 20 Jun (BH).

Vesper Sparrow: 3 Shelby ORLE 6 Jun; max 4, 1 Sheridan CHAU 17 Jun, 1 Jul; Yates ORLE 18 Jul, 8, 19 Aug.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 3, 1 BufH 6 Jun, 22 Jul; max 5, 2 TRWMA 9 Jun, 22 Jul; Jamestown CHAU 8 Jul; Dunkirk CHAU 10 Jul; Rushford ALLE 12 Jul; 3 Perrysburg CATT 13 Jul; Dunkirk Airport CHAU 3 Aug.

White-throated Sparrow: LBSP 11 Jun; 3 Alfred ALLE 20 Jun; 2, 1 HBWMA 30 Jun, 13 Aug; max 4 Alfred ALLE 2 Jul.

Yellow-breasted Chat: Canadaway Creek WMA CHAU 2 Jun (KD, DB); Dunkirk Airport CHAU 3 Jun (GV); INWR 7 Jun (BC); more reports than usual in recent years.

Bobolink: 100 Canadea ALLE 5 Jun; 30 JWWMA 10 Jul; 30 Ripley CHAU 23 Jul; max 660, 1930 TWMA 20, 28 Aug (JSt, MM), leaving night roost in marsh.

Orchard Oriole: max 4 Newstead ERIE 3 Jul; last Forestville CHAU 24 Aug.

Ovenbird: arr Como Lake CP ERIE 14 Aug.

Louisiana Waterthrush: 3 Wales ERIE 5 Jun; max 5 Chestnut Ridge CP ERIE 11 Jun; 4 Zoar Valley MUA CATT 28 Jun; 2 AISP 2 Jul; Leon CATT 3 Jul; Wales ERIE 4 Jul.

Northern Waterthrush: arr TBNP 1 Aug.

Golden-winged Warbler: Forestville CHAU 29 Aug (GV); only report.

“Brewster’s” Warbler: Holland ERIE 25 Jun; only report.

“Lawrence’s” Warbler: juv BMAC 6 Jul (TK), banded.

Black-and-white Warbler: Jamestown Audubon CHAU 3 Jul; Wellsville ALLE 12 Jul; arr WoBSP 14 Aug.

Prothonotary Warbler: max 3 TWMA 4 Jun (JMc); 1, 2 INWR 30 Jun, 26 Jul (CG, PM); regular locations.

Tennessee Warbler: arr BMAC 22 Jul (TK), banded, either early migrant or very rare in summer; WoBSP 14 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: reported from five Southern Tier locations in Jun; 3 BMAC 1 Jul, HBWMA 13, 31 Jul; arr Holland ERIE 18 Aug.

Mourning Warbler: max 4 Chaffee ERIE 3 Jul.

American Redstart: arr BufH 1 Aug.

Cape May Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 2 Aug (BP, WD, ph!), early.

Cerulean Warbler: 2, 4 Newstead ERIE 1 Jun, 10 Jul; 4, 1, 4 INWR 2 Jun, 4 Jul, 2 Aug; max 7 TWMA 20 Jun.

Northern Parula: last BuSP 3 Jun; 3, 1 AISP 5 Jun, 20 Jul; 2 Alfred ALLE 2 Jul; arr WoBSP 5 Aug.

Magnolia Warbler: arr 2 Wilson NIAG 15 Aug.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Amherst ERIE 14 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr WoBSP 14 Aug.

Blackpoll Warbler: last Amherst ERIE 2 Jun; arr 2 RWNP, WoBSP 28 Aug.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr AmSP 20 Aug.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr TBNP, Wilson NIAG 14 Aug.

Prairie Warbler: 3 Ashford CATT 11 Jun; max 4 Glenwood ERIE 7 Jul; 2 Machias CATT 17 Jul.

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 15 Aug.

Canada Warbler: 2 HBWMA 10 Jul (VR); arr 2 WoBSP, TBNP 14 Aug.

Wilson’s Warbler: arr Wilson NIAG 15 Aug.

Indigo Bunting: max 14 HBWMA 10 Jul.

Dickcissel: 1-3 Somerset NIAG 16-30 Jun, 3, 6 Jul (JSt, mob), carrying nesting materials.

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REGION 2—GENESEE

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A “sandwich” summer, with a cool, wet July between two very warm and drier months. As usual, birding observations are driven by a combination of factors—weather a primary driver in the origin and timing of fronts and storms and the locations of rain and drought events and periods; the ongoing Breeding Bird Atlas fieldwork focused in this season; and the varied effects of the continuing COVID “event”. Add to this the human factors involving the who and why relating to the observers, and we end up with the assignment of cause and effect around observations really highly speculative; but maybe still interesting or at least fun.

The season began with the third warmest June in 151 years of records. Temperatures averaged 70.8° F, 3.7° above normal. Records were set for a new high on the 29th and a new high low for the 27th and tied for the high low on the 28th. Eighteen days exceeded 80°, four days >90°, and there was a brief cooler break from 14-18 June. Precipitation totaled 1.73", 1.64" below normal, with 0.47" of that falling on the 19th. There were occasional showers and thunderstorms, but the heaviest rain and some wind damage occurred south of the Rochester area. Flip the switch from last July to a cool, wet month this year, with temperatures averaging 69.6°, 2.7° below normal. There was only one day above 90°, 11 days above 80°, and eight days below their averages. Temperatures were also variable, with only six days the longest stretch for periods either above or below average. Precipitation totaled 7.66", 3.56" above normal, making it the fifth wettest July on record. There were 20 days with rainfall, 11 of these heavy, another July record. The longest stretch without measurable rainfall was four days, a record short interval. The 3.03" on 17 July broke the old record of 2.04" set in 1873 and was the thirteenth wettest day in Rochester weather records. Damaging thunder storms occurred on the 20th, with the hardest hit areas west of Rochester seeing damage from high winds and hail (to tennis ball size in Lewiston, Region 1!). The month ended with a relatively quiet period from 22-29 July and a cold front pushing south to end that.

Back to a warm, humid month in August. Temperatures averaged 73.8°, 3.1° above normal, with warm muggy nights dominating and only two days in the latter half of the month even dipping below 65° at any time. There were no 90° days, but five days hit 89°, and all maxima were >70°. It was the seventh warmest August on record. Precipitation totaled 2.55", 0.76" below normal. Light rain fell on 14 days, but the only heavy rainfall was 0.74" on 1-2 August. The longest dry stretch was again four days, 3-6 August.

All three months produced species counts above their 10-year averages but below 2020 numbers. Increases in eBird lists submitted in June and July are likely due to NY BBA III fieldwork games at the end of June and work into July and to

increased monitoring of the barrier beach island at the mouth of Braddock Bay. August saw some drop due to only one day of banding during the first half of the month. As usual, nearly all expected species were reported, with misses in some of the later spring migrants often banded into June and some of the breeding species that require special effort to locate. There were some interesting rarities found each month, mostly waterbird-associated. The eBird downloads by month, with changes from 2020 in parentheses were: June – 51,421 (+5%), July – 41,541 (+15%), and August – 35,068 (-10%). The drop in August may relate to the weather, a slow start to fall migration, and a change in the type of Atlas birding.

Moving to more detail in families, we start with the waterfowl and the usual low numbers of species and individuals counted in summer. The major observations this summer were first in low counts in the Northern Montezuma Wildlife management Area (NMWMA) in southern Wayne County due to low water levels and heavy plant growth making observations more difficult early, and then locally very heavy rainfall inundating most of the area later. In contrast, near Lake Ontario we had species reported through the summer, some of which had bred in the lakeshore marshes in the past and many of which had only rarely been reported in this season in recent years. Most of these reports were associated with the “new” barrier beach island off the end of the east spit of Braddock Bay. In this area, only Mute Swan was reported in large numbers, but Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, and Ruddy Duck were all reported through June and July and most on through August. Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, and Red-breasted Merganser also lingered into June, and the latter two were observed again in August, and Ring-necked Duck appeared briefly in July. The usual breeding waterfowl species were noted in typical locations. Continuing with some of the marsh species, Pied-billed Grebe numbers were still good in the NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) all season, and the usual few Red-necked Grebes passed through scattered through August. Common Gallinule and American Coot were poorly reported in the NMWMA (Sandhill Crane Unit) but were seen in good numbers in the usually underbirded, nearby Guy Baldassarre Marsh. Virginia Rail and Sora were both noted in few reports. Sandhill Cranes were reported from the usual suspected breeding areas but only in small numbers and with no young noted.

Gypsy Moth outbreaks in some areas brought good numbers of cuckoo reports through the season. The usual Common Nighthawks were seen into early June, and single reports were added in late June and early August before the first fall migrants later in August. Ruby-throated Hummingbird reports were numerous, noted as high counts of lines in the eBird downloads, probably related to BBA activity. An interesting surprise was a passing **Eurasian Collared-Dove** seen by Dave Tetlow at Hamlin Beach on 29 August. It is a lingering mystery why the species has never prospered here as it has in spreading to many other parts of the country.

Moving on to the shorebirds, the timing and location of heavy rains left us with much of the NMWMA area we usually search with too much water and also

with many farm fields not yet harvested and plowed and disced, so the barrier beach island off the east spit of Braddock Bay and passing birds at other sites on the south shore of Lake Ontario saw the bulk of observation time and yielded most of the more unusual reports. Species counts were decent at 19, 20, and 26 for the three months, respectively, but peak counts were low all season other than a good 918 Semipalmated Sandpipers on 3 June, a day with many species reported. Late spring migrants continued well into June, with Least and White-rumped Sandpipers, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Lesser Yellowlegs, then also found later in the month as probable early fall migrants. A continuing rarity was **Marbled Godwit** at two locations. Upland Sandpiper continued unreported as breeding but with singles reported on 1 June and in mid-August. July shorebird arrivals continued much as expected, with Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Long-billed Dowitcher, and Willet the most interesting, and returning plovers weak. Things picked up more in August, with a good count of 75 Whimbrel off the East Spit plus many elsewhere on 1 June; Hudsonian Godwit at Point Breeze; an immature **Western Sandpiper** well documented; at least five Willets; and several Wilson's Phalaropes. Still, low counts were the norm.

The gulls, terns, and allies brought us much the same story—some special records, good variety, low counts, and the barrier beach island the hotspot, and the rest of the regular Lake Ontario sites filling in with a few reports from the NMWMA. Spring migration ended with **Laughing** and **Franklin's Gulls** present through the first week along with up to 10-12 Lesser Black-backed Gulls present through 3 June and small numbers of that species seen essentially all season. A surprise was an Iceland Gull seen off and on 28 June-3 July. Bonaparte's Gull numbers were low, but the species was present all season, so assignment of departure and arrival dates was not possible this year. Our expected tern species were all reported, though in unexceptional numbers, and Black Tern was especially low, with the maximum only five at the Guy Baldassarre Marsh in the NMWMA. Jaegers made a typical late August appearance, with a **Long-tailed Jaeger** well seen on 25 August and one not identified to species on 27 August, both off Hamlin Beach State Park.

Among the rest of the waterbirds, we start with both loons reported into early June, neither in July, and a few Common Loons back in August. Double-crested Cormorant numbers were disappointing, and there were no large counts for our herons or egrets. Part of the reason may be that the long-staying Roseate Spoonbill and Wood Stork just outside our Region had most birders focused there. But we had our good finds, with the Region's sixth **White-faced Ibis** on 29 June at Braddock Bay and the Region's sixth **Wood Stork** occurrence in one soaring with a group of Red-tailed Hawks over the Braddock Bay hawkwatch on 23 August.

This year there was again no organized late spring hawk watch into June, though interested observers did record good numbers of Broad-winged Hawk on 5 and 6 June. We have the now-usual stories of no Black Vulture and Northern Goshawk reports for the season and few reports for breeding Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawks. There was an organized, volunteer hawk watch at

Braddock Bay in August, with 3107 total raptors counted, very close to the 2020 total—3271. Two nice surprises were the Region's seventh **Swallow-tailed Kite** photographed over the Town of Rush on 16 August by Clayton Kusse and a rare summer **Swainson's Hawk** passing the hawkwatch on 22 August seen by Jill Frier and Gerri Sweet. Among our three regular falcons, reports were a bit low in June and July but good in August. In June, there were two locations reported with nesting Merlins, and the website rfalconcam.com followed the progress of the downtown Rochester Peregrine Falcons—four eggs laid, two hatched in May, the male and female young were banded on 2 June, and the female was found dead on 30 June. One other less encouraging note for the Breeding Bird Atlas season was the low number of sites with Red-headed Woodpeckers reported, only eight and nine, respectively for June and July.

The passerines again provide a story of all truly expected species reported and interesting observations in the details. Among the species often banded in good numbers in early June, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Philadelphia Vireo, and Lincoln's Sparrow were missed and numbers for Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes and many of the late migrant warblers were very low. On the positive side, there were reports for **Sedge Wren** and **Yellow-breasted Chat** from possible breeding sites, with the wrens continuing into July, and scarcer species, Clay-colored Sparrow and Prothonotary and Prairie Warblers, all continuing all season. Additionally, we had more White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows than usual for summer, a Pine Siskin in Late July, **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at the barrier beach island in August, and a Northern Parula banded on 20 July. Unfortunately, the comments relating to low numbers, supported by few really good counts, also continued.

Overall, another very interesting summer season. Species reported each month were well above their 10-year averages: June – 202 (vs. 188.1), July – 180 (176.1), and August – 205 (198.0), and a total of 226 for the season. Rarities included: **Eurasian Collared-Dove**, **Western Sandpiper**, **Long-tailed Jaeger**, **Wood Stork**, **White-faced Ibis**, **Swallow-tailed Kite**, and **Swainson's Hawk** plus about ten other species that are scarce and of less than annual occurrence in this season. In terms of counts and the continuing trend to low numbers and peak counts, we do need to think about possible artificial causes, such as how we ask for data. The general request has been to make lists for as short a time and small a geographical area as one is willing, as they can always be aggregated to larger time periods or areas. With the Breeding Bird Atlas work in progress and using eBird as the input tool, this is further emphasized. Such an approach will lead to individual inputs of smaller numbers vs. submitting trip lists or day lists accumulating numbers on those larger scales.

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ABBREVIATIONS

b – after a number of individuals indicates banded; **BB** – Braddock Bay, T Greece, MONR; **BB-ES** – East spit of Braddock Bay; **BB-HW** – Braddock Bay Hawkwatch; **BBBO** – Braddock Bay Bird Observatory, off Manitou Beach Rd, MONR; **CL** – Conesus L, LIVI; **CIWMA** – Conesus In WMA, LIVI; **DE** – Durand-Eastman P, Rochester at Lake Ontario;

G – T Greece, MONR; **H** – T Hamlin, MONR; **HB** – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; **IBO** – Irondequoit Bay Outlet to Lake Ontario; **IB-S** – LaSalle Landing P and vicinity at S end of Irondequoit Bay; **IB-W** – Irondequoit Bay P West; **LSP** – Letchworth SP; **M** – Manitou, NW side of Manitou Beach Rd, MONR; **MP** – Mendon Ponds P, MONR; **NMWMA (GBM)** – Northern Montezuma WMA, Guy Baldassarre Marsh, WAYN; **NMWMA (SCU)** – Northern Montezuma WMA, Sandhill Crane Unit often interchangeable with the Van Dyne Spoor Rd label; **NMWMA (VDSR)** – Van Dyne Spoor Rd area, WAYN; **PtB** – Point Breeze, ORLE; **Spt** – Sodus Pt, WAYN.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: last T Savannah, WAYN 5 Jun.

Mute Swan: 136 IB-S 26 Jun; max 151 IB-S 10 Jul; 145 IBP-W 18 Aug; monthly peak counts.

Trumpeter Swan: max 6 NMWMA (GBM) 11, 25 Jul.

Wood Duck: max 150 CIWMA 11 Aug (MGi), good count.

Blue-winged Teal: 1-6 BB-ES Jun; 1-4 IB-S 11-20 Jun; 1-3 BB-S Jul; max 78 BB-ES 20 Aug (MGi); 35 NMWMA (SCU) 14 Aug; interesting for dates & loc vs. historical.

Northern Shoveler: 1-4 BB-ES Jun; 1-2 BB-ES Jul; scarce at dates and loc recent past.

Gadwall: 1-2 BB-ES 10-30 Jun, thru Jul; scarce in summer.

American Wigeon: 1-2 BB-ES 11-22 Jun; 1-3 BB-ES 4-31 Jul; unusual for loc & dates.

Mallard: max 650 NMWMA (SCU) 14 Aug (TL), good count.

Northern Pintail: arr 1-2 BB-ES (sev obs) & 1 NMWMA (SCU) (TL) 14 Aug, early.

Green-winged Teal: 1-3 sev nr Lake Ontario loc Jun; 1-6 BB-ES Jul; max 45 BB-ES 28 Aug (JMcG); unusual loc for dates, usually scarce in summer.

Redhead: NMWMA (SCU) 14 Aug, sometimes breed.

Ring-necked Duck: BB-ES 5 Jul (AS, KWh), scarce in summer.

Lesser Scaup: last 2 BB-ES 4 Jun.

White-winged Scoter: arr HB 27 Aug (AGu), early.

Bufflehead: Alder Beach, T Parma, MONR 14 Jun (JiM, LMa); arr 1 f 8-15 BB-ES Aug (11+ obs).

Common Merganser: max 30 HB 20 Aug (R&SSp), good count for date.

Red-breasted Merganser: Beechwood SP, WAYN 27 Jun (MMi); arr 4 HB 6 Aug (RMc).

Ruddy Duck: 1-4 IB-S 11-30 Jun; off Lowden Pt, G 22 Jun (MB); BB-ES 18 Jul (MGi, JiM, TBo, PMar); 2 BB-ES 24 Jul (RRy); 1-2 BB-ES 1-21 Aug; unusual for dates & loc.

Pied-billed Grebe: max 24 NMWMA (SCU) 3 Aug, low high count.

Horned Grebe: arr HB 30 Aug (AGu, BriM, DSh), early.

Red-necked Grebe: arr HB 14 Aug (AGu), typical early arr; 2-6 HB 18-31 Aug (AGu, JiM), early.

EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE: HB 29 Aug (DT), rare, *intro*.

Common Nighthawk: max 27 Grand View Hts, G 2 Jun (KGri); last Ellison P, T Penfield 8 Jun; T Bloomfield, ONTA 26 Jun (BCar), scarce in summer; Long Pnd, G 2 Aug; 11 T Rush, MONR 21 Aug, early fall max.

Chimney Swift: max 50 NMWMA (SCU) 3 Aug (PMcN, PMar).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 514 eBird lines many loc Jul; 717 eBird lines many loc Aug; up from last year.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Common Gallinule: max 161 NMWMA (GBM) 15 Aug (BCar).

American Coot: max 6 NMWMA (GBM) 25 Jul, very low max.

Sandhill Crane: max 19 T Savannah, WAYN 3 Jun; only 3 NMWMA (SCU) 3 Aug; Aug max, low.

Black-bellied Plover: last 1 ad alt Slater Creek, G 15 Jun (KD); arr BB-ES & HW 5 Aug.

American Golden-Plover: arr HB 29 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: 24 Hemlock L 1 Jun; last 3 BB-ES 23 Jun (JKe); arr BB-ES 2 Jul (GL); max 25 NMWMA (GBM) 14 Aug (TL).

Killdeer: max 73 Redman Rd, H 25 Aug (AGu), low max.

Upland Sandpiper: Genesee, LIVI 3 Jun (LH); arr BB-ES 15 Aug (CW), only reps.

Whimbrel: arr BB-ES 3-14 Jul; Spt 11 Jul; 1-2 BB-ES 1-28 Aug, phs; max 75 BB-ES 1 Aug (AGu, BCar, JMcG, BriM, JaG, phs); HB 7, 15 Aug (AGu, DT); 2 Spt 13 Jul (JWi, ph); Beechwood SP, WAYN 27 Aug (JWo).

MARBLED GODWIT (R2): BB-ES 1 Jun (DBr); last Long Pnd, G 3 Jun (CGi, ph); 1; 2 BB-ES 13 Jul (MG, SG, AGae, NK).

Hudsonian Godwit: arr PtB 6 Aug (R&SSp), early.

Ruddy Turnstone: last BB-ES 3 Jun; arr 2 SPt 25 Jul (DSH), early.

Red Knot: last BB-ES 3 Jun (MG), only report.

Stilt Sandpiper: arr BB-ES 28 Jul; max 8 BB-ES 10 Aug.

Sanderling: 11 BB-ES 3 Jun (MG); last 1 BB-ES 9 Jun; arr SPt 8 Jul; max 20 BB-ES 31 Aug (BWa).

Dunlin: 10 & 13 BB-ES 1 Jun; 1-3 sev loc 1-30 Jun, mix of spring dep, fall arr, & lingering; scarce rest of season.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr BB-ES 15 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: last 40 SPt (BCar) & 1 TCEA 3 Jun; arr 2 BB-ES 19 Jun; max 54 BB-ES 7 Jul (GL, JiM), low max.

White-rumped Sandpiper: last BB-ES 26 Jun (MGi), Reg record late; arr BB-ES 12 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 1-3 Jones Bridge & Perry Rds, T Leicester, LIVI 24 Jul; max 30 NMWMA (GBM) 14 Aug (TL).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 918 BB-ES 3 Jun (GL), high count; last BB-ES 27 Jun (MGi), late; arr 3 BB-ES 6 Jul; 80 BB-ES 21 Aug (MGi), good count.

WESTERN SANDPIPER: 1 imm BB-ES 27-31 Aug (AGu, JiM, LMa, mob, phs)

Short-billed Dowitcher: last BB-ES 3 Jun; arr 2 BB-ES 27 Jun (MGi); max 22 BB-ES 18 Aug (MG).

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr BB-ES 12 Jul, only report.

Spotted Sandpiper: max 18 BB-ES 16 Jul (JiM).

Solitary Sandpiper: last BB-ES 1 Jun; arr 2 BB-ES 1 Jul (RB, GL, JiM, LMa).

Lesser Yellowlegs: last BB-ES 10 Jun; arr BB-ES 21 Jun (MGi), early; max 25 BB-ES 20 Aug, low max.

Willet: arr BB-ES 11-14 Jul (GL, MG, mob), early; PtB 6 Aug (MGi, PMar, CMo, ph); BB-ES 9-20 Aug (mob); IB 9 Aug (ES); 2 BB-ES 10 Aug (MGi); good showing.

Greater Yellowlegs: last Genesee Valley Greenway, Chandler Rd, LIVI 6 Jun (JKi); arr BB-ES & NMWMA (SCU) 2 Jul.

Wilson's Phalarope: last BB-ES 1 Jun (NR); arr 1-3 BB-ES 5-14 Aug (mob, phs).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: arr HB 25 Aug (DT).

jaeger sp: HB 27 Aug (AGu).

Bonaparte's Gull: max 44 BB-ES 22 Jun, low max.

LAUGHING GULL (R2): 1 1st sum BB-ES 2-7 Jun (8 obs, ph).

FRANKLIN'S GULL (R2): BB-ES 2, 7 Jun (LMA, NU, phs).

Iceland Gull: BB-ES 28-30 Jun (MG, MG, CGo, JGo, SP) 1, 3 Jul (GL, 8 oth obs), rare at dates.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 1-4 BB-ES 1-26 Jun; max 10-12 BB-ES 1-3 Jun (sev obs); Alder Beach, T Parma, MONR 14 Jun (JiM, LMa); 1-2 BB-RS 1, 6, 18 Jul; 1 ad BB-ES 29 Aug (MGi, NU, ph); good numbers for summer.

Caspian Tern: max 120 BB-ES 8 Aug (BHa).

Black Tern: max 5 NMWMA (GBM) 4 Jul (D&EB), very low max.

Common Tern: max 48 HB 14 Aug.

Forster's Tern: arr BB-ES 13 Aug.

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: last HB 1 Jun.

Common Loon: max 5 BB-ES 8 Jun; 10 rep, 1-4 ind HB 7-31 Aug.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 1000 Blind Sodus Bay, WAYN 12 Aug (JuA).

WOOD STORK: BB-HW 23 Aug (JFri, GS), soaring with Red-tailed Hawks, 6th Reg record.

WHITE-FACED IBIS: 1 ad BB-ES 29 Jun (JiM, PMi), ph, 6th Reg record.

Turkey Vulture: 66 BB-HW 23 Jun; peak 35 BB-HW 23 Aug.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: Rotzel Rd, T Rush, MONR 16 Aug (CKu), 7th Reg record.

Northern Goshawk: no reports.

Bald Eagle: 139 eBird lines Jun; 149 eBird lines Jul; 232 eBird lines Aug; max 19 BB-HW 10 Aug; 347 lines in eBird many loc Aug.

Red-shouldered Hawk: total 5 ind 5 loc Jun; Graham Rd, T Canaseraga, LIVI 7 Jul (SH), only Jul rep; total 10 ind 6 loc Aug.

Broad-winged Hawk: 61 BB-HW 5 Jun; 72 HB 6 Jun; max 94 BB 11 Aug (DT); total 100 BB-HW Aug.

SWAINSON'S HAWK: BB-HW 22 Aug (JFri, GS).

Red-tailed Hawk: max 502 BB-HW 10 Aug; total 2453 BB-HW Aug.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 23 rep, 12 ind 8 loc 2-27 Jun; 23 rep, 16 ind 9 loc 6-31 Jul; 29 rep, ~11 ind 7 loc Aug; good showing for this Reg.

American Kestrel: total ~52 ind 44 loc Jun; ~134 ind many loc Jul; ~64+ ind 43+ loc Aug.

Merlin: nesting pr Casey P, T Ontario, WAYN 24-28 Jun (JWi); nesting pr 19th Ward Rochester 19 Jun (LBra); total 10 ind 8 4-28 Jun; ~14 ind 10 loc 2-31 Jul; ~18 ind 15 loc 3-31 Aug.

Peregrine Falcon: total ~ 7 ind 6 loc Jun; ~18 ind 13 loc 5-27 Jul; total 17+ ind 15 loc 4-31 Aug; 2 hatched May, 2 banded 2 Jun, 1 found dead 30 Jun, Rochester, *intro*.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: arr Sandra L. Frankel NP 12 Aug (PD, MG); CIWMA 23 Aug (MA); Beechwoods SP, WAYN 29-30 Aug (TL, MG, JWi, JWo).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max b 6 BBBO 1 Jun; total b 18 BBBO 1-5 Jun; LSP-Dishmill Crk 9 Jun; last LSP-Lee's Landing 19 Jun (BCar), late; arr BB-ES 15 Aug (7 obs); total b 5 BBBO 21-30 Aug.

Acadian Flycatcher: Wilbert Tree Farm, Webster 19 Jun (RSp), interesting loc.

“Trail’s” Flycatcher: max b 10 BBBO 2 Jun; total b 29 BBBO 1-7 Jun; total b 8 BBBO 6, 18-30 Aug.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr 2 BB-ES 28 Aug.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 24 Finger Lakes Trail, ONTA 10 Jun (BHo); total b 17 BBBO 20-31 Aug.

Purple Martin: max 70 CR 239 quarry, T Sodus, WAYN 21 Aug, low max.

Tree Swallow: max 325 NMWMA (GBM) 25 Jul, low max.

Bank Swallow: max 300 NMWMA (Morgan Rd) 25 Aug, low max.

Cliff Swallow: max 23 Black Crk Access, MONR, low max.

Swallow sp.: 500 NMWMA (SCU) 17 Jul; 1000 NMWMA (VDSR) 23 Aug (JGar).

Winter Wren: total ~14 ind 7 loc Jul, good number; no reports Aug.

SEDGE WREN (R2): Zurich Bog, WAYN 1-10 Jun (EK, 13+ oth obs, aud recs); 1-2 Fisher Rd, ROCH 19-30 Jun, 1-14 Jul (BriM, mob, phs & aud recs); 1-2 Ballantyne Rd, T Chili, MONR 19-30 Jun, 1-18 Jul (BriM, 4 oth obs, aud recs); now rare in Reg.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: 1b BBBO 2 Jun, unusual date for loc.

Gray-checked Thrush: last BB-ES & 1b BBBO 3 Jun. **Swainson’s Thrush:** max 23 N Rush, MONR 2 Jun (NK), flight calls; total b 8 BBBO 1-4 Jun; last N Rush, MONR 8 Jun (NK), flight calls; arr Ellison P, T Penfield 12 Aug (JiM).

Hermit Thrush: arr Beech SP, WAYN 30 Aug (JWi), early.

American Robin: 495 lines eBird Jul.

Gray Catbird: total b 28 BBBO Jun; 1183 eBird lines Jul; total b 107 BBBO 6, 20-31 Aug.

Cedar Waxwing: max 240 HB 25 Aug (DT), low max.

Pine Siskin: Lake Rd, Webster 22, 31 Jul (PMab), only Jul reps; T Canadice, ONTA 4 Aug; Ellison P, T Penfield 12, 18 Aug.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Clay-colored Sparrow: Cook Rd, Hamlin 2-13 Jun (9 obs), 1-10 Jul (4 obs); Conesus-Sparte TLR, LIVI 10-16 Jul (LC, EL, JCo, 5 oth obs).

White-throated Sparrow: Nunda, LIVI 27-29 Jun (DSm); Hojack Trail & Big Field, T Webster 6, 10, 11 Jul (AGar, JiM); Nations Rd IBA, LIVI 10 Jul (RCi); Four Mile Crk Pres, T Webster (JiM); rare in summer.

White-crowned Sparrow: BB-ES 29 Jun (JiM); Grandview Heights, G 12-29 Jul, 3-7 Aug (KGri); unusual for dates & locs.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (R2): 1b BBBO 5 Jun; Greenway Trail, T Scottsville, MONR 14-25 Jun (NK, mob, phs & aud recs); now rare in Reg.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (R2): 1 juv f 15-31 Aug (CW, mob, phs).

Bobolink: max 100 NMWMA (Morgan Rd) 25 Aug (JMcG), good count.

Eastern Meadowlark: max 18 Genesee Airfield 5 Aug (JKi), good count.

Baltimore Oriole: total b 6 BBBO 20, 22 Aug.

Northern Waterthrush: arr BB-ES 14 Aug (JeB, CW); total b 16 BBBO 6, 20-27 Aug.

Black-and-white Warbler: arr BB-ES 8 Aug.

Prothonotary Warbler: 1-3 NMWMA (Armitage Rd) thru Jul (mob); BB-ES 10 Aug (GL).

Tennessee Warbler: last Beechwood SP, WAYN 3 Jun; arr Ellison P, T Penfield 12 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: arr Lake Rd, Webster 18 Aug.

Mourning Warbler: last 1b BBBO 4 Jun; arr 1 BBBO 28 Aug.

Common Yellowthroat: total b 7 BBBO 1-5 Jun; 521 eBird lines Jul; total b 21 BBBO 6, 20-31 Aug.

American Redstart: total b 22 BBBO 1-5 Jun; max 21 Chimney Bluffs, WAYN 5 Jul, low max; total b 16 BBBO 6, 20-28 Aug.

Cape May Warbler: arr 1-2 BB-ES 15 Aug.

Northern Parula: last Norway Rd, T Kendall, ORLE 14 Jun (KGa, BCar); 1b BBBO 20 Jul; unusual locs for dates; arr BB-ES 21 Aug.

Magnolia Warbler: last 3b BBBO 5 Jun; TCEA 25 Jun (MW), unusual loc for date; total b 51 BBBO 6, 20-31 Aug, good number b.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last 1b BBBO 2 Jun; arr BB-ES 15 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: arr 1-2 BB-ES 15 Aug.

Yellow Warbler: 30 MP 10 June (DHo) & BB-ES 27 Jul (MGi); total b 126 BBBO Jul; 563 lines in eBird Jul; max 45 BB-ES 10 Aug (MB), low max; total b 7 BBBO 6, 22-27 Aug, low number b.

Blackpoll Warbler: total b 17 1-7 Jun; last M-Owl Woods 5 Jun; arr BB-ES & Mt Albion Cemetery 29 Aug.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: arr BB-ES 15 Aug.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: arr BB-ES 31 Jul (AB).

Prairie Warbler: White Rd, T Conesus, LIVI 9 Jun (SMu); Lehigh Valley Trail, ONTA 10, 11 Jul (NK, MPa, BH); Turkey Hill Rd, T Conesus LIVI 12 Jul (AH); Conesus-Sparta TLR, LIVI 13 Jul (LHow); BB-ES 14 Aug (JeB, CW); Lake Rd, Webster 20, 22 Aug (AGar).

Black-throated Green Warbler: arr BB-ES 15 Aug.

Canada Warbler: last 1b BBBO 5 Jun; arr M-Owl Woods 15 Aug.

Wilson's Warbler: 5b BBBO 2 Jun; last 1b BBBO 7 Jun; arr Webster Village 19 Aug.

Northern Cardinal: 626 eBird lines Jul.

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REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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Every month in Summer 2021 was wetter than normal. June and August were warmer than normal. July was cooler. The average low temperature in June was 56.1° F, 2.7° above normal. The average high was 78.6°, 2.9° above normal. Total rainfall in June was 4.42", 0.44" more than normal. July's average low was 57.7°, 0.2° below normal. The average high was 78.5°, 1.4° below normal. Rainfall that month totaled 6.32", 2.42" more than normal. In August, the average low temperature was 60.6°, 4.3° above normal, and the average high was 80.8°, 2.3° above normal. Total rainfall was 6.24", 2.47" more than normal.

Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) hosted high numbers of Mallards in late July. Also there in mid-August was a high count of Blue-winged Teal. Elsewhere in the Region was a high count of Hooded Mergansers in Van Etten in early June and a high count of Red-breasted Mergansers on Seneca Lake in late July. Scarce species included small numbers of Northern Shovelers in three locations and Ruddy Ducks in two locations. A Greater Scaup was at Stewart Park in mid-June, a Black Scoter was on Seneca Lake in mid-July, and a Common Goldeneye was at Myers Point in late July. Rarities were **Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks** and **Eurasian Wigeon**. A small flock of the Whistling-Ducks was at Cayuga Lake State Park in mid-June. Two more were at Montezuma NWR in late July and early August. Another was at Myers Point in mid-August. The Eurasian Wigeon was at Montezuma NWR in late August.

A high count of Ruffed Grouse in Van Etten included a large covey. Three sightings of Horned Grebe may have been of the same bird. The first was at the Waneta Lamoka Wildlife Management Area (WMA) on 2 July. Four days later, a Horned Grebe was at Myers Point. Five days after that, one was at Long Point State Park. A Red-necked Grebe was on Seneca Lake for a week in mid-July.

A growing infestation of Gypsy Moths in the Region was likely responsible for cuckoos being much in evidence. Observers submitted high counts for Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Hi Tor WMA and in Van Etten. The only Eastern Whip-poor-will report came from the Town of Caroline in early June.

Sandhill Cranes peaked at Montezuma NWR with a high count at the end of July. A high count of Killdeer was in Dryden in late August and of Long-billed Dowitcher at Montezuma NWR in mid-August. Late spring departures were Semipalmated Sandpipers and Lesser Yellowlegs at Montezuma NWR. Observers reported the early fall arrival of Ruddy Turnstone, Semipalmated Sandpiper, and Lesser Yellowlegs. The only report of Upland Sandpiper was of a displaying bird in Seneca Falls in early July. Reports of Laughing Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, and Forster's Tern all came from Tompkins County.

The Region had several interesting reports of long-legged waders. These included high counts of Least Bitterns and Great Egrets at Montezuma NWR and Green Herons at a wetland in Dryden. A **Wood Stork** at Montezuma NWR from mid-July through mid-August was the Region's first summer record. A Little Blue Heron made three separate appearances at Montezuma NWR between late July and late August. Individual Cattle Egrets briefly showed up in the Town of Canandaigua in early June, in the City of Canandaigua in late June, at Montezuma NWR at the end of July and beginning of August, and one in Dryden also in the beginning of August. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was at Taughannock Falls State Park in the beginning of July and reappeared at Cass Park in Ithaca two weeks later. Finally, the Region's first **Roseate Spoonbill** appeared at Montezuma NWR in mid-July and stayed through the end of the season.

Two Black Vultures were in the Ithaca-Dryden area for most of the season. The only other report came from Benton in Yates County. At the compost piles in Dryden, Turkey Vultures and Red-tailed Hawks produced high counts. A **Swallow-tailed Kite** in Yates County the last half of August was the Region's fourth record.

Sapsucker Woods produced a high count of Pileated Woodpeckers. At Allan H Treman State Marine Park, a family of Merlins accounted for a high count and at Taughannock Falls State Park, lingering fledgling Peregrine Falcons contributed to a high count for that species. Red-headed Woodpeckers were at five locations in three counties.

Two flycatcher high counts were Yellow-bellied Flycatchers at Danby State Forest and Eastern Phoebe at Hi Tor WMA. Montezuma NWR produced a high count of Warbling Vireos. A field in the Town of Fayette hosted a high count of Horned Larks. The Boiceville Nature Walk allowed observers to find a high count of Tufted Titmice.

Usually very scarce, Sedge Wrens were found at four locations in three counties. Counts of 16 Veeries at two locations were the season's highest counts, but were, nonetheless, low compared to other years. A Swainson's Thrush in Van Etten was a late spring migrant. Cedar Waxwings, always abundant in late summer, managed a high count at Montezuma NWR.

Some "winter" finches lingered into summer. A Pine Siskin was in Erwin in early July. An Evening Grosbeak lingered late into early June at a Van Etten feeding station. A high count of Red Crossbills was in Danby in early June and the last one was reported from Hammond Hill State Forest in mid-July. High counts of Purple Finches and American Goldfinches came from Van Etten and Beebe Lake, respectively.

Observers turned in high counts for several species of sparrows: Eastern Towhees at Sampson State Park, Chipping Sparrows at the Bluegrass Lane Natural Area, Field Sparrows at Bare Hill Natural Area, Savannah Sparrows in Fayette, and Song Sparrows at Montezuma NWR. Another high count to mention here, also at Montezuma, is a huge number of Red-winged Blackbirds. Back to sparrows, the only report of Clay-colored Sparrow came from Lodi in mid-June.

Warbler high counts included Chestnut-sided Warblers in Arnot Forest, Black-throated Blue Warblers in Shindagin Hollow State Forest, and Prairie Warblers at Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve in early June; and Tennessee Warblers and Northern Parulas in Danby State Forest and Bay-breasted Warblers in Sapsucker Woods in late August. A Wilson's Warbler arrived early at Montezuma NWR in mid-August. Finally, a high count of Dickcissels were in Phelps with reports of the species coming from there mid-June through mid-August.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BL – Beebe L, TOMP; **DSF** – Danby State Forest, TOMP; **LPBP** – Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Pres, TOMP; **MNWR** – Montezuma NWR; **MR** – Monkey Run, TOMP; **MyPt** – Myers Pt, TOMP; **SenL** – Seneca L; **SRCP** – Stevenson Rd Compost Piles, TOMP; **StP** – Stewart P, TOMP; **SW** – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; **TCar** – T Caroline, TOMP; **TDry** – T Dryden, TOMP; **Tith** – T Ithaca, TOMP; **TVE** – T Van Etten, CHEM.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: 7

Cayuga L SP 11 Jun (mob, ph), high; 1-2 MNWR 29 Jul-8 Aug (mob, ph); MyPt 15 Aug (mob, ph).

Blue-winged Teal: max 50 MNWR 21 Aug (mob), high.

Northern Shoveler: 2 Seneca Harbor Park 12 Jun; North Montezuma WMA 17 Jun; MNWR 24 Jun; 1-9 MNWR 21 Jul thru.

Eurasian Wigeon: MNWR 28 Aug thru (mob).

Mallard: max 2000 MNWR 29 Jul (JMc), high.

Greater Scaup: StP 11 Jun (JMc!).

Black Scoter: SenL SENE 10-18 Jul (mob).

Common Goldeneye: MyPt 20-22 Jul (mob, ph).

Hooded Merganser: max 24 TVE 5 Jun (JoCo, MPe!), high.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 5 SenL SENE 20-24 Jul (TLel), high.

Ruddy Duck: max 5 Tileyard Pds ONTA 4 Jul (TLel, SW); 2 MNWR 4 Jul (RoM); MNWR 25 Jul (mob).

Ruffed Grouse: max 18 TVE 16 Jun (JoCo, MPe!), high.

Horned Grebe: Waneta Lamoka WMA SCHU 2 Jul (JoCo, ph); MyPt 6 Jul (JMc, ph); Long Pt SP 11 Jul (OBC, ZVZ, ph).

Red-necked Grebe: 2 SenL SENE 11-18 Jul (mob, ph).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: max 6 Hi Tor WMA YATE 2 Jun (BiHo!), high; 6 TVE 24 Jun (JoCo!), high.

Common Nighthawk: last Tlth 24 Jun; arr MyPt 15 Aug; max 21 Catharine Creek WMA 16 Aug.

Eastern Whip-poor-will: TCar 3 Jun (SPo!).

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Sandhill Crane: max 40 MNWR 31 Jul (CGo, JGo!), high.

Black-bellied Plover: last MNWR 6 Jun; arr MNWR 10 Aug; max 7 MNWR 2 Jun.

Semipalmated Plover: last MNWR 14 Jun; arr 2 MNWR 4 Jul; max 50 MNWR 11 Aug.

Killdeer: max 280 TDry 29 Aug (THe, SO), high.

Upland Sandpiper: T Seneca Falls SENE 1 Jul (RSt).

Whimbrel: 2 City Pier ONTA 2 Jun; StP 10 Aug.

Ruddy Turnstone: max 15 MNWR 1 Jun; last MNWR 4 Jun; arr MNWR 8 Jul (JJ), early.

Stilt Sandpiper: arr 3 MNWR 4 Aug; max 21 MNWR 11 Aug.

Sanderling: arr MNWR 1 Aug.

Dunlin: max 2 MNWR 2 Jun; last Sullivanville Dam CHEM 6 Jun.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr MNWR 29 Jul.

Least Sandpiper: last 34 MNWR 14 Jun; arr MNWR 29 Jun; max 400 MNWR 19 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: last MNWR 2 Jun; arr TDry 18 Jul; max 2 MNWR 4 Aug; 2 MNWR 11 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 4 MNWR 7 Jul; max 34 MNWR 4 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: last 3 MNWR 18 Jun (JeCo), late; arr MNWR 27 Jun (KGa), early; max 200 MNWR 4 Aug; 200 MNWR 11 Aug.

Short-billed Dowitcher: last MNWR 14 Jun (JoMi), late; arr 3 MNWR 16 Jul; max 31 MNWR 17 Aug.

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr 6 MNWR 29 Jul; max 15 MNWR 12 Aug (SJ, RRei), high.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr MNWR 24 Jun; max 11 Locke Rd Marsh TOMP 11 Aug.

Lesser Yellowlegs: last 4 MNWR 10 Jun (KCo), late; arr MNWR 19 Jun (MM), early; max 200 MNWR 4 Aug.

Greater Yellowlegs: last MNWR 15 Jun; arr MNWR 22 Jun; max 100 MNWR 7 Aug.

Wilson's Phalarope: arr MNWR 4 Aug.

Red-necked Phalarope: arr MNWR 29 Jul; max 3 MNWR 21 Aug.

Laughing Gull: 2 MyPt 19-21 Aug; MR 23 Aug; StP 26 Aug.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: Hog Hole TOMP 19 Jun (KE); StP 14 Jul (THe).

Forster's Tern: 5 MyPt 19 Aug (mob, ph).

LOONS – PARAKEET

WOOD STORK: MNWR 20 Jul-17 Aug (mob, ph).

Least Bittern: max 8 MNWR 12 Jul (MK!), high.

Great Egret: max 287 MNWR 7 Aug (Dda), high.

Little Blue Heron: MNWR 28 Jul (JAp!); MNWR 11 Aug (mob, ph); MNWR 29 Aug (BCa; JMc, ph; MM, ph).

Cattle Egret: T Canandaigua ONTA 3 Jun (MarBr, ph); City Pier ONTA 29 Jun (KGa, ph); MNWR 30 Jul-2 Aug (mob, ph); SRCP 1 Aug (mob, ph).

Green Heron: max 66 Hile School Road Wetland TOMP 31 Aug (ABC), high.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: Taughannock Falls SP 1-3 Jul (mob, ph); Cass P TOMP 18-22 Jul (mob, ph).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: MNWR 11 Jul thru.

Black Vulture: 2 Tlth 5 Jun; 1-2 SRCP 15 Jun-2 Aug; Fidlers Pd 6 Aug; Cornell Botanic Gardens TOMP 8 Aug; MR 15 Aug; T Benton YATE 26 Aug.

Turkey Vulture: max 142 SRCP 20 Jul (JMc!), high.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: T Benton and T Jerusalem YATE 15-31 Aug (mob, ph).

Red-tailed Hawk: max 5 SRCP 1 Aug (JGar), high.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 1-2 Trumansburg 22 Jun-26 Jul; 1-2 T Seneca Falls SENE 28-21 Aug; Hile School Road Wetland TOMP 1 Jun; T Potter YATE 1-19 Jun; MyPt 10-12 Jun; Ludlowville 28 Aug.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 7 SW 2 Jul (GK), high.

Merlin: max 6 Allan H Treman State Marine P TOMP 27 Jun (KMcGo!), high.

Peregrine Falcon: 5 Taughannock Falls SP 23 Jun (PHe, MWin!), high.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last MNWR 6 Jun; arr SW 19 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last Dryden L TOMP 6 Jun; arr Tlth 6 Aug; max 3 DSF 29 Aug (mob), high.

Eastern Phoebe: max 20 Hi Tor WMA YATE 10 Jul (TSh), high.

Philadelphia Vireo: arr Goetchicus Wetland Preserve TOMP 26 Aug; max 2 Willard WMA SENE 28 Aug; 2 BL 30 Aug.

Warbling Vireo: max 15 MNWR 10 Jun (LCB, StBe), high.

Horned Lark: max 50 T Fayette SENE 31 Aug (TLe), high.

Tufted Titmouse: max 20 Boiceville Road Nature Walk TOMP 23 Jun (PMarr), high.

Sedge Wren: T Farmington ONTA 29 Jun-13 Jul; T Ovid SENE 30 Jun-1 Jul; MNWR 4-6 Aug; 1-3 T Reading SCHU 8-16 Aug.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: arr Tlth 28 Aug.

Veery: max 16 Cliffside State Forest SCHU 6 Jun; 16 Michigan Hollow TOMP 2 Jul, low.

Gray-checked Thrush: last Northeast Ithaca 1 Jun; MR 1 Jun; T Enfield TOMP 1 Jun.

Swainson's Thrush: max 4 Northeast Ithaca 1 Jun; 4 MR 31 Aug; last TVE 8 Jun (JoCo), late; arr T Dryden 13 Aug.

Cedar Waxwing: max 150 MNWR 28 Aug (mob), high.

Evening Grosbeak: last TVE 4 Jun (JoCo, MPe), late.

Purple Finch: max 16 TVE 5 Aug (JoCo), high.

Red Crossbill: max 25 T Danby 9 Jun (WE), high; last Hammond Hill State Forest 13 Jul (CWo).

Pine Siskin: last T Erwin STEU 9 Jul.

American Goldfinch: max 200 BL 23 Aug (SRa), high.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: max 16 Sampson SP 30 Jul (DBem, TBe), high.

Chipping Sparrow: max 50 Bluegrass Lane Natural Area TOMP 31 Aug (SBi, BW), high.

Clay-colored Sparrow: T Lodi SENE 17 Jun (mob).

Field Sparrow: max 22 Bare Hill Natural Area YATE 21 Jun (EC), high.

Savannah Sparrow: max 60 T Fayette SENE 16 Aug (TLe), high.

Song Sparrow: max 68 MNWR 23 Jul, high.

Red-winged Blackbird: max 50,000 MNWR 14 Aug (mob), high.

Worm-eating Warbler: 1-2 LPBP 10-19 Jun; last LPBP 1 Aug.

Louisiana Waterthrush: max 9 Cayuta Gulf SCHU 19 Jun; last Ringwood House TOMP 15 Aug.

“Brewster’s” Warbler: Jennings Pd TOMP 14 Jul (DTol!).

“Lawrence’s” Warbler: TCar 12 Jul (TA, ph).

Tennessee Warbler: arr SenL SP 15 Aug; max 7 DSF 29 Aug (mob), high.

Connecticut Warbler: arr MR 30 Aug.

Cape May Warbler: arr 2 Salt Pt Natural Area TOMP 15 Aug; max 7 T Hector SCHU 28 Aug.

Northern Parula: arr Cornell University 22 Aug (IS, STa, AVi); Palmer Woods TOMP 22 Aug (CL), early; max 2 DSF 29 Aug (mob), high.

Bay-breasted Warbler: last Northeast Ithaca 1 Jun (JMc, rec; KRo), late; arr MR 16 Aug; max 4 SW 28 Aug (MHa), high.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 30 Arnot Forest TOMP 5 Jun (SBi, BW!), high.

Blackpoll Warbler: last TVE 9 Jun; TDry 29 Jun-1 Jul (MPI, rec); arr BL 28 Aug; TCar 28 Aug.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 18
Shindagin Hollow State Forest TOMP 3 Jun
(PMarr, PMc), high.
Prairie Warbler: max 7 LPBP 7 & 16 Jun
(MaGi), high.

Wilson's Warbler: last StP 3 Jun; arr MNWR
16 Aug (DK, ph), early.
Dickeissel: 1-4 T Phelps ONTA 13 Jun-12
Aug (TLe, ph; mob), high.

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REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

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June 2021 was a warmer than average regarding temperature and somewhat drier than normal. July was just one degree warmer than the long-term norm but had about six inches more rainfall than average. August was also warmer than normal and had two inches more rainfall than average.

Common Gallinules again bred in Chenango County in a Sherburne marsh. Nine birds, including seven juveniles, were seen and photographed there. This was the fifth year in a row that breeding has been reported in this marsh, and is the only place in the Region with confirmed breeding so far in 2020 atlas work. There were perhaps ten blocks reporting possible or confirmed breeding during the 2000-2005 atlas work in the Region.

There were three pairs of Sandhill Cranes with colts in Chenango County observed this season. Mike DeWispelaere reported, "In the county there is a pair with a colt at Bliven Pond, a pair with 2 colts at North Norwich and the pair with the colt here (Round Pond, Pharsalia Woods State Forest)." Catherine Murphy and Alex Trifunovic have also documented Sandhill Cranes in the county. In previous NY Breeding Bird Atlas projects begun in 1980 and 2000, there were no reports of Sandhill Cranes breeding in the Region.

In late August there were several reports of Common Nighthawks migrating through the Region, though the numbers seemed low.

Regarding migrating shorebirds, there was a Baird's Sandpiper seen in the Region in late August. Also, a Willet was seen on 11 August in the Susquehanna River in Johnson City in Broome County. Then on 20 August a Red-necked Phalarope was photographed at Dorchester Park which borders the Whitney Point Reservoir. This was after Tropical Storm *Fred* had moved through and the water level was higher, creating more habitat along the shore in the grassy areas.

There were 130 reports of Great Egrets in the Region from mid-July thru August compared to 77 reports in the 2020 summer season. Most reports came from the Susquehanna and Chenango Rivers. It is not clear why there is such a fluctuation in numbers of Great Egrets from year to year. For example, in 2018 there were just 27 reports during the summer season.

A **Roseate Spoonbill** was reported and photographed by Landa Palmer on a small pond in Delaware County on 7 July. Then Susan Thorne reported another on 11 July at Chenango Valley State Park. Many observers were able to see and photograph this exotic looking bird as it foraged along the Chenango River. It was a bit of a surreal sight. Adding to the mystery of this appearance was that another Roseate Spoonbill was seen at the same time at the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge. There are no previous reports of Roseate Spoonbills in the Region in eBird.

Both Swainson's and Hermit Thrushes were recorded singing in the Pharsalia Wildlife Management Area on 10 July by David Nicosia. However, there were no reports in the Region of confirmed breeding for the Swainson's Thrush. The use of audio recordings in eBird seems to be on the increase, which is great for documenting breeding behaviors, especially for rare breeding birds in the Region like the Swainson's Thrush. Plus, the recordings of these species' songs are amazing to hear.

Similar to last season there were only a few reports of Pine Siskins. However, there were 50 reports of Red Crossbills contrasting with 21 reports last year.

In total, 29 species of warblers were seen in the Region for the season, which included a Golden-winged Warbler and Cerulean Warblers. This number of species is about average for the Region. In addition, a "Lawrence's" Warbler (hybrid) was reported and photographed from both Cortland and Otsego Counties.

In summary, 189 species (last year 182) were reported, with some interesting rarities and vocalizations for the Region. When summarizing the number of reports in the Region, if there are a reasonable number of reports, I try to eliminate duplicate reports on the same day by different observers. There were 74,661 observations (which is about 85% as many as last year) in eBird for our Region, so I want to acknowledge and thank Bill Ostrander who sorted eBird data to identify arrivals, last dates, and high counts.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AqPk – Aqua Terra P, BROO; **Bpd** – Boland Pd, BROO; **BUNP** – Binghamton University Nature Pres, BROO; **CannR** – Cannonsville Res, DELA; **CG** – Carantouan Greenway, T Barton, TIOG; **CornellLn** – Cornell Lane, T Harford, CORT; **DorP** – Dorchester P, BROO; **FLT** – Finger Lakes Trail; **FMHW** – Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch, DELA; **LHNC** – Lime Hollow Nature Center, T Cortlandville, CORT; **MHL** – Michigan Hollow L, TIOG; **NMSF** – New Michigan State Forest, CHEN; **PHWMA** – Pharsalia WMA, CHEN; **SHM** – Sherburne Railroad Grade Marsh, CHEN; **SusRB** – Susquehanna Ri, Greater Binghamton, BROO; **TomakRd** – Tomak Rd, T Candor, TIOG; **ULCP** – Upper Lisle CP, T Triangle, BROO; **WHP** – William Hill P, Johnson City, BROO.
C, CF, DD, FL, FY, N, NB, P – Atlas breeding codes (see page 419).

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Mute Swan: 3 Deposit DELA 12 Jun, only report.
Trumpeter Swan: Bpd 14-31 Aug, mob, ph.
Lesser Scaup: Plymouth Res CHEN 12 Jun-26 Jul, ph.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 104 reports throughout Region.
Black-billed Cuckoo: 127 reports throughout Region.
Common Nighthawk: max 16 Vestal BROO 21 Aug; 14 WHP 31 Aug; 20 other scattered rep in late Aug, numbers seem low.
Chimney Swift: max 51 WHP 14 Aug.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: widely noted, 923 lines in eBird, though not as many reports as last year.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Common Gallinule: max 9 SHM 27 Jul, 2 ad, 7 juv, ph, (AT), *intro*.
Sandhill Crane: max 4 Pharsalia SF CHEN 4 Jun, 3 ad, 1 juv, ph; SHM 5 Aug, 2 ad, 2 juv, ph; 3 Bliven Pd CHEN 18 Jul, 2 ad, 1 juv, ph, (MD), *intro*.
Baird's Sandpiper: CornellLn 29 Aug, only report.
Least Sandpiper: max 18 CornellLn 28 Aug.
Short-billed Dowitcher: MHL 21-26 Aug, only report.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 22 Chenango R CHEN 6 Jul.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 4 CornellLn 28 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: arr ULCP 8 Aug.
Willet: WHP 11 Aug.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr ULCP 12 Jul.
Red-necked Phalarope: DorP 20 Aug, ph, mob.
Bonaparte's Gull: arr 2 DorP 31 Aug.
Laughing Gull: 2 DorP 19-31 Aug, ph, mob.
Caspian Tern: max 8 DorP 21 Aug.
Black Tern: 6 Chenango L CHEN 19 Aug, ph, after tropical storm Fred came through.
Common Tern: 2 Tully Lake CORT 15 Aug; DorP 30 Aug, ph.

LOONS – PARAKEET

American Bittern: Hartwick OTSE 15 Aug, only report.
Least Bittern: Bpd 30 Jun; MHL 8 Aug.
Great Egret: max 7 SusRB 17 Aug; 130 reports thru Region, more reports this year than last.
Cattle Egret: Barker Hill Bridge BROO 2 Aug, only report.
ROSEATE SPOONBILL: Hamden DELA 7 Jul, ph, (LP); Chenango Valley SP BROO 11 JUL, ph, mob, *intro*, (ST).
Black Vulture: 3 scattered reports in June.
Osprey: 2 SusRB 21 Jun, NB.
Bald Eagle: many reports, very widespread.
Red-shouldered Hawk: 2 Blakesley Nurse Hollow Rd CHEN 9 Jul, ph, FL; 62 scattered reports.
Eastern Screech-Owl: 2 Lime Hollow CORT 11 Jun, FL.
Great Horned Owl: 2 Moon Hill Rd CHEN 12 Jun, FL.
Red-headed Woodpecker: Springfield Center OTSE 12 Jun, only report.
American Kestrel: max 14 TomakRd 18 Aug.

Merlin: max 5 Milford OTSE 12 Jul, 2 ad, 3 juv, audio recording, FY.

Peregrine Falcon: 7 reports of downtown resident Binghamton pr.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-Sided Flycatcher: Galpin Rd TIOG 1 Jun; TomakRd 20 Aug; MHL 27 Aug, only reports.

Acadian Flycatcher: Jam Pd CHEN 29 Jun, audio recording.

Horned Lark: max 2 Caldwell Hill Rd BROO 13 Jun, C.

Purple Martin: 6 scattered reports, same number as last year.

Brown Creeper: max 5 Triangle SF BROO 28 Jun, audio recording, FY.

Winter Wren: max 5 Kinny Rd CHEN 16 Jun, FL; 5 T Taylor FLT CORT 4 Jul, audio recording, FY.

Marsh Wren: most reports from BPd, MHL, and SHM; 3 Summit L Pres OTSE 18 Jun, audio recording, N.

Swainson's Thrush: max 6 PHWMA 10 Jul, audio recordings.

Hermit Thrush: max 12 PHWMA 10 Jul, audio recordings.

Red Crossbill: max 15 PHWMA 1 Jun; 50 reports most from state forests in CHEN and CORT, last year 21 reports.

Pine Siskin: max 4 MHL 17 & 20 Aug; 3 other scattered reports.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Clay-colored Sparrow: T Owego TIOG 2 & 4 Jun, ph; MHL 1 Aug.

Vesper Sparrow: T Barton TIOG 5 Jun; West Creek Rd TIOG 8 Jun.

Grasshopper Sparrow: Elklor Rd TIOG 27 Jun; TomakRd 1 Jul.

Bobolink: max 120 W Terry Clove Rd DELA 21 Jul.

Orchard Oriole: 8 scattered reports in Jun, most of singing males.

Ovenbird: max 48 Beaver Meadow SF CHEN 12 Jun, DD.

Louisiana Waterthrush: max 6 Griggs Gulf SF CORT 20 Jun, FL.

Northern Waterthrush: max 4 Jam Pd CHEN 20 Jun, CF.

Golden-winged Warbler: TomakRd 15 Aug.

“Lawrence’s” Warbler: (hybrid): Chlorinator Rd OTSE 19 Jun, ph; LHNC 13 Jul, ph.

Mourning Warbler: max 10 Cuyler Hill SF CORT 29 Jun, CF.

Hooded Warbler: max 4 Taylor Valley SF CORT 4 Jul, P.

Cerulean Warbler: 2 Warren Rd DELA 4-5 Jun, ph, P.

REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

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Summer 2021° F was warmer and wetter than average. June’s average maximum of 83.7° was a whopping 6.4° above normal, with eight days above 90° versus only two in a typical year. Overnights allowed little cooling and at 61.4° were 4.7° above normal, and the month finished as the third warmest June ever. Rainfall of 6.4" was 2.9" over the expected 3.5". July was also much wetter than usual but about average in temperature with no extended heat waves. August, however, was a record-setter with the average maximum temperature of 84.7° being 4.4° above normal. The prior record for the month had stood since 1937. Overnights were sweltering with an average of 66.2°, nearly 6° over the typical number. Five days were above 90° and the month finished as sixth wettest at 6.6" of rain, nearly 3" more than expected. Many will remember the summer for its frequent ‘rainouts’

PHOTO GALLERY, SUMMER 2021



Hudsonian Godwits, Orient Point, *Suffolk*, 23 Aug 2021, © Jay Rand. See Region 10 Summer Season Report, pp. 404-418.



Roseate Spoonbill, Poughkeepsie, *Dutchess*, here 25 Jul 2021, © Susan Iannucci.



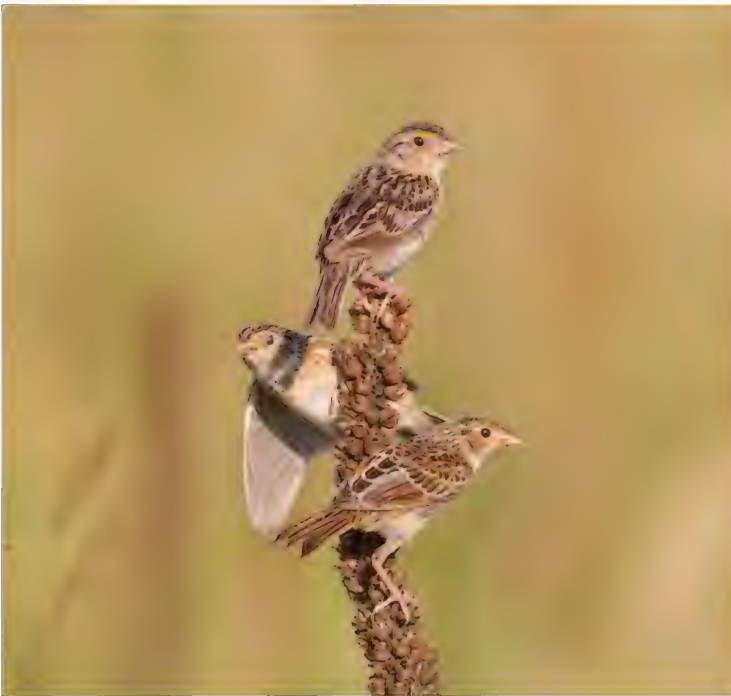
Wood Stork, Montezuma NWR, *Seneca*, here 12 Aug 2021, © Wade and Melissa Rowley.



Wood Stork, Ghent, *Columbia*, here 5 Aug 2021, © Carena Pooth.



Roseate Spoonbill, Cold Spring Harbor, *Nassau*, here 30 Jul 2021, © Keith Michael.



Dickcissels (top) and Grasshopper Sparrows (bottom), Croton Point Park, *Westchester*, here 24 Aug 2021, © Robert Lewis.



Rufous Hummingbird, East Quogue, *Suffolk*, 5 Aug 2021, © Eileen Schwinn.



King Rail, Iroquois NWR, Kumpf Marsh, *Genesee*, here 1 Jun 2021, © Becky Harbison.



Swallow-tailed Kite, Yatesville, *Yates*, here 27 Aug 2021, © Donna Schulman.



Common Tern, Captree State Park, *Suffolk*, © Indira Thirkannad. This dark-billed, dark-legged, long-winged individual resembles several birds documented on Long Island in recent years, suspected as the Siberian-breeding subspecies *Sterna hirundo longipennis*. An article reviewing these records is in preparation—Editor.



Long-tailed Jaeger, Jacob Riis Park, *Queens*, 23 Aug 2021, © Doug Gochfeld.



Richard Crossley and “Rocky,” Beaver Lake Nature Center, *Onondaga*, 3 Dec 2013, © Joseph Brin. See Patch Birding piece, pp. 335-336.



Figure 1. Common Raven nests at two New York State Department of Transportation salt storage barns in western NYS: Batavia, *Genesee* (left), April 2021, photo courtesy of MaryEllen Papin; and Newark, *Wayne* (right), May 2021, photo courtesy of Sarah Lazazzero. Arrows indicate the approximate locations of the nest sites. See Notes and Observations, pp. 332-333.



Figure 2. Common Raven nests at two New York State Department of Transportation salt storage barns in western NYS: Batavia, *Genesee* (left), April 2021, photo courtesy of MaryEllen Papin; and Newark, *Wayne* (right), May 2021, photo courtesy of Sarah Lazazzero. See Notes and Observations, pp. 332-333.

of outdoor activities dependent on fair weather, the season finishing at nearly double the usual amount of precipitation.

Summer in the Region is typically slow for waterfowl until dabbling ducks make their return. Sandy Pond started receiving birds in August and a count of 65 Blue-winged Teal was the highlight of an otherwise unexciting season. Mark Burns observed an impressive flight of 42 Common Nighthawk on 23 August in the North Bay area on Oneida Lake's northeast shoreline. His checklist notes the flight began at 7:00 pm, lasted about 30 minutes, and was composed of singles and small groups heading east around the lake's wide east end (rather than crossing the water). Meanwhile, Gregg Dashnau found a singing Whip-poor-will at Three Rivers on the 27th, presumably a migrating bird, though the timing of the species through our area in fall is poorly known. The bird vocalizing also seems curious for fall since Common Nighthawks generally do not. The area hosted a singing Whip during June from 2011-2013 and Dashnau observed a pair together there on 3 June 2012. Since Whip-poor-will is usually considered an early to mid-May migrant for the area in spring, a possible breeding attempt or at least interest in the habitat was suggested by their presence in June. The species' secretive nature prevented anything from being confirmed.

Low water levels on Sandy Pond continued from spring and Matt Brown made frequent trips to the channel area and Carl Island shoal, finding an excellent count of 52 north-bound Black-bellied Plover there on 1 June. Two pairs of **Piping Plover** nested successfully and hatched seven young, most of which reached at least test-flying, but only two are thought to have survived to migrate. Other highlights included a **Marbled Godwit** continuing from the previous period, Whimbrel, Willet, Red Knot, and four Stilt Sandpiper, an excellent count for the Region. Another was seen at Oswego Harbor by Gregg Dashnau, an unusual location for the species. Ditch Bank Road produced a Sanderling on 19 August, always rare away from big water. The Sky High Turf Farm hosted a Buff-breasted Sandpiper between 15-18 August. Back at Sandy Pond, 23 Short-billed Dowitcher on 18 August was a good number for our area. Seldom seen away from Montezuma, Wilson's Phalarope was found at Onondaga Lake by Drew Weber on 14 August, while Red-necked showed the same day at Sandy. Two Lesser Yellowlegs were seen in Hamilton on 22 June by Gary Meyers. Yellowlegs in mid-June are interesting as they are ambiguous in terms of assigning them to direction of migration—presumably too late for north-bound breeders but also early for south-bound. Failed breeders not trying again and thus leaving the breeding grounds are a possibility, these being fall migrants of a sort. Non-breeding immatures may also wander and summer as they see fit. Brown found a **Laughing Gull** at Sandy on 4 June. As the season wore on the Carl Island shoal gradually became vegetated enough to provide hiding places for shorebirds, an unusual scenario. Wet weather was also taking its toll with the exposed sand shrinking but never fully disappearing.

On Otisco Lake, Tobias Beach photographed a **Swallow-tailed Kite** on 21 August. This is a first Regional record for the summer season and Onondaga

county, fifth for the Region overall, the prior sightings all from Derby Hill in May. There were few other raptor highlights save for a Short-eared Owl at Deer Creek on 30 August. For the first time in many years, Acadian Flycatcher was not found at the usual Whiskey Hollow spot this summer. Several new locations were found by birders, however, including Gray Road south of Oswego, Hannibal, Skaneateles, Labrador Hollow, and the former Sithe Energy preserve in Scriba. Some of these represent traditional habitat for the species in our area—hemlock ravines with no understory—while others may be typical of nesting habitat farther south in the core breeding range. Dave Nash reported a singing bird at Hamlin Marsh in Clay on 17 June. Did any of these birds nest? Sedge Wren was found at a new location near Fulton and also returned to the big fields of Three Rivers WMA. Its choice of habitat makes it difficult to confirm breeding.

Though possibly an occasional breeder in the northeastern part of the Region, Evening Grosbeak is rarely reported in summer. Adam Panek had one visiting his feeders near Brewerton on 2 June. Red Crossbill continued in the Morgan Hill area while Pine Siskin was reported only from Dolgeville. Given the lack of nesting-season reports, what is its current status as a breeder in our area? Clay-colored Sparrow was reported from Pulaski on 4 June by Lynn Braband, the bird singing and seen in a small spruce. Matt Wallace added another sighting near Canastota on 5 June, while Gary Meyers found one near Erieville on 24 August. Mickey Scilingo found a **Nelson's Sparrow** while birding the Oswego County trail in West Monroe on 2 June.

Warbler highlights included a Louisiana Waterthrush pair producing four young on Matt Brown's property near Pulaski. The species is at the edge of its range and scarce in Oswego County. A late Prothonotary Warbler was found at Oneida Shores Park on 2 June, possibly headed for the traditional area near Toad Harbor. Two others were found in unusual locations: one near Oswego present for at least two weeks starting on 3 June, and another photographed on a light pole in the parking lot of Beaver Lake Nature Center on 13 June. Ken Burdick again surveyed areas of the Seneca River in Cayuga and southwestern Onondaga County, finding Prothonotaries near Cross Lake. Golden-winged Warblers were reported from a power line cut near Mexico, the front field at Great Bear, and in the Erieville area on two dates in August.

Count maximums in the synopsis section of this report rely on data from eBird, which in turn come from checklists of varying effort/distance submitted by observers. Consequently, large counts often reflect greater distances covered and other factors requiring careful analysis to compare with other counts. This effect is most strongly shown among species that are common and exceptionally vociferous such as Red-eyed Vireo. Simply driving with car windows down in good breeding areas can accumulate huge numbers and present challenges to analysts after the fact.

This season a total of 223 species and two hybrids was reported, which is 13 above the recent 10-year average for the Region. Highlights of the season included: **Piping Plover**, Whimbrel, **Marbled Godwit**, Red Knot, **Willet**,

Wilson's Phalarope, Red-necked Phalarope, **Laughing Gull**, Black Vulture, **Swallow-tailed Kite**, Black-backed Woodpecker, Sedge Wren, Evening Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, Clay-colored Sparrow, **Nelson's Sparrow**.

Summer 2021 produced 94,538 eBird records for Region 5, and were processed by Swan Swan Hummingbird v5.5. Reports were contributed by 650 people.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADK – Adirondacks, n. HERK; **BW** – Baltimore Woods, Marcellus; **BLNC** – Beaver L Nature Center, Baldwinsville; **Brew** – Oneida L at Brewerton; **BRH** – Bishop Road Hawk Watch, T Richland; **Bville** – Baldwinsville; **CM** – Clay Marsh, Clay; **Const** – Oneida L at Constantia; **DB** – Ditch Bank Rd & vicinity, T Sullivan/Lenox, MADI; **DC** – Deer Creek Marsh, T Richland; **DH** – Derby Hill, T Mexico; **DL** – Delta L; **Dolge** – Dolgeville, HERK; **FH** – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and West Barrier Bar; **Fult** – Fulton area including Oswego Ri, Indian Pt, L Neatahwanta; **GB** – Great Bear Rec Area, Fulton; **GLSP** – Green Lakes SP, Fayetteville; **HF** – Highland Forest CP; **HI** – Howland I WMA, CAYU; **HV** – Happy Valley WMA, Parish; **KK** – Kindred Kingdom Wildlife Center, Pennellville; **LH** – Labrador Hollow Unique Area; **L Ont** – L Ontario; **LoopR** – Loop Rd, Montezuma NWR, CAYU; **MCL** – Madison County Landfill; **MexPt** – Mexico Pt SP; **MH** – Morgan Hill State Forest, Fabius; **MSI** – Madison St Impoundment, Hamilton; **MW** – McKoons Road Wetland, Colombia Center, s. HERK; **OakC** – Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse; **OF** – Old Forge; **OLC** – Onondaga L Creekwalk; **OneiL** – Oneida L; **OnonL** – Onondaga L; **OLP** – Onondaga Lake P (east and west shore); **OSP** – Oneida Shores P, Brewerton; **OswH** – Oswego Harbor; **Phx** – Phoenix dam area; **PPt** – Oneida L at Phillips Pt, W Monroe; **PSS** – Peter Scott Swamp, Phoenix; **RCFS** – Rice Creek Field Station, Oswego; **RRP** – Radisson Ri P, Three Rivers confluence, Phoenix; **SBP** – Sunset Bay P, Scriba; **SFNS** – Spring Farm

Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; **Sithe** – trails at Independence P, formerly Sithe Energy, Scriba; **SH** – Southern Highlands of ONON & MADI; **SHTF** – Sky High Turf Farm, Chittenango; **Skan** – Skaneateles; **SNC** – Sterling Nature Center, Sterling; **SP** – Sandy Pd and vicinity; **SSSP** – Selkirk Shores SP; **SVB** – Sylvan & Verona Beach; **Syr** – Syracuse; **TNP** – Tuscarora Nature P, MADI; **TR** – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; **UM** – Utica Marsh; **VBSP** – Verona Beach SP; **WH** – Whiskey Hollow; **WP** – Woodman Pd, Hamilton.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: OneiL 13 Jun; only rep.
Canada Goose: max 300 OLP 15 Jul; flocks widespread thru.
Mute Swan: 15 SP 1 Jun; max 28 FH 17 Jun; a few sightings Seneca Ri, mostly absent from E part of Reg.
Trumpeter Swan: pairs GSC, FH; Volney with 2 young; sev other reps.
Wood Duck: max 70 Ladd Rd, Brew 31 Aug; widespread.
Blue-winged Teal: SP 4 Jun; 2 GSC 16 Jun; 3 DC 14 Jul; max 65 SP 20 Aug.
Northern Shoveler: SP 10 Jul; arr SP 30 Aug; only reps.
Gadwall: 4 SP 18-19 Aug; only reps.
American Wigeon: GSC 18 Jun; only rep.
Mallard: max 300 OnonL 7 Aug; flocks widespread.
American Black Duck: WMonroe 2 Jun; SP 3 Jun; max 5 SP 26 Aug & SVB 29 Aug.
Northern Pintail: 4 SP 24 Aug; only rep.
Green-winged Teal: 2 SP 30 Jun; SP 14 Jul; max 11 SP 14 Aug.
Ring-necked Duck: UM 1 Jun; 1-2 Bville 2-5 Jul; only reps.
Greater Scaup: SP 2-4 Jun; Fult 4, 10 Jul; OneiL 26 Aug, early; only reps.
Lesser Scaup: OneiL 29 Aug; only rep.
Hooded Merganser: max 9 Poland 8 Jun; small nums typ locs.
Common Merganser: max 15 OnonL 4 Jun; small groups typ locs.
Red-breasted Merganser: 1-2 Phx 1 Jun thru; 4 SP 3 Jun; sev other reps.
Ring-necked Pheasant: small nums var loc but few reps.
Ruffed Grouse: max 6 Hastings 7-16 Jul.
Wild Turkey: max 32 Cazenovia 29 Aug.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 7 OnonL 23 Jul.
Rock Pigeon: flocks widespread.
Mourning Dove: max 71 ESyr 16 Jul; widespread resident.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: singles/pairs thru; max 4 WMonroe 6 Jun.
Black-billed Cuckoo: singles/pairs thru; max 4 Pulaski 8 Jun.

Common Nighthawk: 7 TR 1 Jun; last 2 Oswego 4 Jun; Syr 1 Aug; arr Manlius 10 Aug; max 42 Onei lakeshore 23 Aug (Mbu), exc num.
Eastern Whip-poor-will: TR 27 Aug (GDa), presumably a migrant; only rep.
Chimney Swift: max 30 OnonL 14 Aug; small groups typ locs thru.
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 12 Williamstown 25 Jun, 25 Jul.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Virginia Rail: max 6 UM 1 Jun.
Sora: max 2 Central Sq 24 Jul; singles 4 other locs.
Common Gallinule: 11 WMonroe 6 Jun; 9 OnonL 13 Aug; max 18 HI 25 Jul.
American Coot: 1-7 OnonL var dates Jun/Jul; only reps.
Sandhill Crane: WMonroe 6 Jun; NicksL 6 Jun; 2 Const 15 Jun; 2 TR/Bville 23 Jun – 28 Jul; Vienna 17 Jul; Kirksville 31 Jul; only reps.
Black-bellied Plover: max 52 SP 1 Jun (MBr), good num; last 2 SP 7 Jun; arr SP 4 Aug.
American Golden-Plover: arr OnonL 25 Aug; only rep.
Semipalmated Plover: 30 SP 1 Jun; last 3 SP 16 Jun; arr 2 SP 8 Jul; max 38 SP 1 Aug.
PIPING PLOVER (R5): 2 pairs nest SP, 7 chicks fledge (or close) but only 2 thought to survive.
Killdeer: max 63 Mexico 23 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: Syr Airport 23 Jun (Mbu); Deerfield 24 Jun; only reps.
Whimbrel: arr FH & SP 14 July; 2 SP 19 Jul; SP 21 Jul, 18, 22 Aug; only reps.
MARBLED GODWIT (R5): SP 2, 7 Jun (MBr, ph), cont from prev period.
Ruddy Turnstone: max 14 SP 2 Jun; last 8 SP 3 Jun; arr 3 SP 1 Aug.
Red Knot: last SP 1 Jun; arr & max 6 SP 15 Aug thru (MBr, mob); 1-2 OSP 24-28 Aug.
Stilt Sandpiper: arr 2 SP 21 Aug; max 4 SP 26 Aug (MBr); OswH 29 Aug (GDa), unusual loc.
Sanderling: last SP 7 Jun; arr 9 SP 16 Jul; max 36 SP 28 Aug; 8 OnonL 17 Aug; DB 19 Aug; 3 FH 29 Aug.

Dunlin: last 4 SP 7 Jun; max 12 SP 1-3 Jun.
Baird's Sandpiper: arr 3 SP 15 Aug; max 4 SP 27-30 Aug; other reps SHTF, FH, OSP.
Least Sandpiper: 26 SP 1 Jun; last MSI 6 Jun; arr 4 SP 2 Jul; max 45 DB 21 Aug.
White-rumped Sandpiper: last 4 SP 7 Jun; arr 2 Marcellus 31 Jul; max 10 SP 27 Aug.
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 1-2 SHTF 15-18 Aug; only reps.
Pectoral Sandpiper: arr 3 SP 1 Aug; max 19 SHTF 18 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 176 SP 3 Jun (MBr), good num; 22 FH 8 Jun; last 8 SP 16 Jun; arr 2 SP 9 Jul; flocks SP thru.
Short-billed Dowitcher: arr 2 SP 8 Jul; max 23 SP 18-19 Aug (MBr), exc num.
American Woodcock: max 6 TR 1 Jun.
Wilson's Snipe: max 4 Fabius 23 Aug.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 12 OnonL 16 Jul.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr Cato 5 Jul; max 10 DB 19 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: last SP 2 Jun; 2 MSI 22 Jun (GMe), north or south bound?; arr SP 30 Jun, presumably southbound; max 29 SP 14 Aug; *intro*.
Willet: SP 1-3 Jun (MBr, DWh); SP 11, 12, 14 Aug; 2 SP 16 Aug (MBr).
Greater Yellowlegs: last 2 OnonL 1 Jun; arr SP 1 Jul; max 42 SP 14 Aug.
Wilson's Phalarope: OnonL 14 Aug (DWe) & 17 Aug (FLe).
Red-necked Phalarope: SP 14 Aug (MBr).
Bonaparte's Gull: last SP 7 Jun; arr 2 SP 28 Jun; max 35 OneiL 15 Aug.
LAUGHING GULL (R5): SP 4 Jun (MBr).
Ring-billed Gull: max 740 OswH 19 Aug.
Herring Gull: max 120 SP 15 Aug.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: no reports.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 13 SVB 11 Aug.
Caspian Tern: max 137 OnonL 7 Aug, good num for loc.
Black Tern: SP 12-14 Jul, 11 Aug; OnonL 18 Aug; nesting status in Reg uncertain.
Common Tern: 90 SP 15 Aug; max 209 OSP 17 Aug.

LOONS – PARAKEET

Common Loon: small groups on ADK lakes.
Double-crested Cormorant: max 1100 OnonL 21 Aug.
American Bittern: 1-2 var typ locs.
Least Bittern: few reps typ locs; max 9 Ladd Rd Brew 31 Aug, good num.

Great Blue Heron: max 135 GSC 4 Jun; reps widespread incl breeding colonies typ locs.
Great Egret: GSC 4, 6 Jun; arr ESyr 10 Jul; max 12 DeWitt Marsh 14 Aug.
Green Heron: small groups widespread; max 16 OSP 31 Aug, good num.
Black-crowned Night-Heron: max 6 OnonL 30 Jul (JFr, ph), good num, likely nest in area; singles SP, Fville, Syr, Fulton, Bville, Pulaski.
Black Vulture: Newport 25 Jul (JRe); only rep.
Turkey Vulture: widespread; max 70 DB 17 Aug.
Osprey: pairs widespread typ locs; max 7 Brew 25 Jul & SP 2 Aug.
SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: Otisco L 21 Aug (TBe, ph), 1st county & summer rec, 5th for Reg.
Northern Harrier: singles/pairs typ locs; max 4 Deerfield 12 Jun.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: few reps of singles.
Cooper's Hawk: singles/pairs; max 4 DH 10 Aug, dispersal flight.
Northern Goshawk: juv Alder Crk 16 Aug; only rep.
Bald Eagle: widespread reps; max 19 DH 10 Aug, dispersal flight.
Red-shouldered Hawk: few reps singles; max 4 Const; 29 Jun.
Broad-winged Hawk: widespread reps typ locs; max 19 DH 10 Aug, dispersal flight.
Red-tailed Hawk: common & widespread; max 127 DH 10 Aug, dispersal flight.
Eastern Screech-Owl: singles/pairs typ locs.
Great Horned Owl: widespread resident.
Barred Owl: widespread resident.
Short-eared Owl: DC 30 Aug (MBr); only rep.
Northern Saw-whet Owl: no reports.
Belted Kingfisher: pairs widespread; max 9 Bville 29 Jul.
Red-headed Woodpecker: pairs at established locs Ont & Onei lakeshores; 1-2 DC 20-21 Jul, 8, 17 Aug, new loc; Marsh Mill Rd MADI 18-19 Aug, new loc.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: widespread resident.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: singles/pairs var locs; max 4 four locs, Jun.
Black-backed Woodpecker: Black River Forest 1 Aug (JKr).
Downy Woodpecker: widespread resident.
Hairy Woodpecker: widespread resident.
Northern Flicker: common & widespread throughout Reg; max 11 RRP 21 Aug.
Pileated Woodpecker: widespread resident.

American Kestrel: singles/pairs Jun, family groups Aug.
Merlin: singles/pairs scattered about Reg.
Peregrine Falcon: pairs nest Syr, Jamesville, Utica, Little Falls; 1-2 OswH var dates; several other reps singles.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: max 8 Munnsville 23 Jul.

Eastern Kingbird: max 12 Rome 5 Aug.

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last DeWitt & Salisbury 4 Jun; arr Marsh Mill Rd 18-19 Aug; Little Falls 20 Aug.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: max 8 FH 2 July.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last 2 DB 4 June; arr Hastings 15 Aug; 6 other reps.

Acadian Flycatcher: 1-2 Oswego, SNC; also Hannibal, LH, Skaneateles, Sithe, all new locs; 3 SNC 23 Jun; 1 CM 17 Jun, unusual loc; no reps WH, first time in many years, *intro*.

Alder Flycatcher: max 7 Lacona 4 Jun.

Willow Flycatcher: max 9 Ladd Rd Brew 8 Jun.

Least Flycatcher: max 5 Beaver Ri HERK 11 Jun & OLP 7 Jun.

Eastern Phoebe: max 8 Tully 1 Aug & Munnsville 31 Jul.

Yellow-throated Vireo: max 5 OSP 31 Aug.

Blue-headed Vireo: max 6 Forestport 27 Jun.

Philadelphia Vireo: Salisbury 7 Jun; RRP 21 Aug; Erieville 24 Aug; OSP 31 Aug; only reps.

Warbling Vireo: max 9 HI 2 Jun.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 20 var locs/dates; abundant & vociferous, high counts depend on effort/distance, *intro*.

Blue Jay: common & widespread throughout Reg; max 150 DH 3 Jun, still migrating.

American Crow: widespread resident.

Fish Crow: reps mostly from known locs and mostly ONON; max 5 Rte 31 Clay 16 Aug, new loc.

Common Raven: many reps typ locs, small nums/family groups; max 12 Boonville 13 July.

Horned Lark: max 12 SHTF 21 Aug; few reps otherwise.

Purple Martin: max 20 Const 15 Jun.

Tree Swallow: max 200 SP 12 Jul.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: max 12 OnonL 10 Jul.

Bank Swallow: 35 Elbridge 15 Jul; 36 SP 12 Jul; 50 Cato 25 Jul; 70 Bville 30 July; max 80 Fulton 11 Jul.

Cliff Swallow: max 6 Cicero 14 Jul; few reps, small nums typ locs.

Barn Swallow: max 60 SP 19 Aug.

Black-capped Chickadee: widespread resident; max 24 GLSP 25 Jun.

Tufted Titmouse: widespread resident except N HERK & ONEI; max 15 Syr 26 Jun.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: small groups typ locs; max 14 Salisbury 11 Jul.

White-breasted Nuthatch: widespread resident.

Brown Creeper: small nums typ locs; max 4 var locs/dates.

House Wren: max 21 Bridgewater 24 Jul.

Winter Wren: max 10 N HERK 14 Jun.

Sedge Wren: Fulton 11 Jun, 23 Jul, new loc (RWh, BP); 1-2 TR 9, 15, 25 Jul (GDa, JBr, RKi, DWe), poss nesting.

Marsh Wren: 12 Ladd Rd Brew 2 Jun; max 14 OLP 10 Jul.

Carolina Wren: small nums typ locs, mostly ONON; max 5 TSullivan MADI 26 Aug.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 4 OLP 5 Jul.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 10 Bald Mt 13 Aug; small groups typ locs.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: two locs N HERK 12 Jun, prob nesting; Williamstown 12 Jun; only reps.

Eastern Bluebird: widespread reps; max 14 Clinton 31 Aug.

Veery: max 15 LH 20 Jun; counts depend on distance/effort.

Swainson's Thrush: few reps of 1-3, mostly N part of Reg, Jun/Jul.

Hermit Thrush: max 7 Old Forge 4 Jul; counts depend on distance/effort.

Wood Thrush: max 11 Canastota 8 Jun; counts depend on distance/effort.

American Robin: common and widespread throughout Reg; max 75 OSP 31 Aug.

Gray Catbird: max 20 Kirkland 3 Jun & 1 Aug; counts depend on distance/effort.

Brown Thrasher: max 5 GLSP 24 Jun & Salisbury 30 Jun & Pulaski 11 Jun.

Northern Mockingbird: singles/pairs typ locs, mostly ONON.

European Starling: max 3000 DC 31 Aug.

Cedar Waxwing: max 120 North Bay 28 Aug.

House Sparrow: flocks widespread resident in urban/suburban environs.

American Pipit: SHTF 15-22 Aug; only rep.

Evening Grosbeak: Brew 2 Jun (APa); only rep.

House Finch: widespread resident; max 15 Syr 26 Jun & Cazenovia 3 Jul.

Purple Finch: typ locs; max 8 Little Falls 1 Aug.
Red Crossbill: 1-2 Little Moose L 27, 29 Jun; max 48 Morgan Hill SF 11 Jun but likely present thru, traditional loc.
Pine Siskin: Dolgeville 14-16 Jun; only rep.
American Goldfinch: common and widespread throughout Reg; max 60 OLP 17, 25 Aug.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: max 13 Skaneateles 19 Jun.
Chipping Sparrow: max 30 Clay 22 Aug.
Clay-colored Sparrow: Pulaski 4 Jun, unusual loc (LBr); Canastota 5 Jun (MWa); Erieville 24 Aug (GMe); only reps.
Field Sparrow: max 20 Lacona 22 Jun.
Vesper Sparrow: 1-2 rep 6 places Jun/Jul; scarce.
Savannah Sparrow: max 12 Lacona 22 Jun.
Grasshopper Sparrow: singles/pairs typ locs; few reps.
NELSON'S SPARROW (R5): WMonroe 2 Jun (MSc).
Song Sparrow: max 50 GLSP 25 Jun, count depends on distance/effort.
Lincoln's Sparrow: singles 5 locs N HERK 11-14 Jun; only reps.
Swamp Sparrow: max 25 Cicero 25 Jun.
White-throated Sparrow: max 7 N HERK 12 June.
White-crowned Sparrow: last 2 Canastota 1 Jun; only rep.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 9 Ilion 27 Jun.
Bobolink: max 400 TR 27 Aug.
Eastern Meadowlark: max 14 Fult Airport 4 Jul.
Orchard Oriole: few reps typ locs; scarce; no reps DB.
Baltimore Oriole: max 12 Syr 26 Jun.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 2423 DC 31 Aug & 2000+ DB 28 Aug.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 250 LoopR 28 Aug.
Rusty Blackbird: no reps.
Common Grackle: max 600 DC 31 Aug.
Ovenbird: max 16 Lacona 4 Jun; counts depend on distance/effort.
Louisiana Waterthrush: singles/pair typ locs; pair w 4 young, Pulaski 15 Jun (MBr), new loc.
Northern Waterthrush: max 7 BLNC 25 Jun.
Golden-winged Warbler: Mexico 1 Jun; 1-2 GB 2 Jun – 16 Jul; Erieville 3, 31 Aug; only reps.

Blue-winged Warbler: max 5 WMonroe 28 Jul.
"Lawrence's" Warbler: Mexico 1 Jun, poss paired with GWWA at same loc.
Black-and-white Warbler: max 3 McKeever 27 Jun.
Prothonotary Warbler: OSP 2 Jun, unusual loc (DWe); 4 HI 2 Jun (PNo); Oswego 3-19 Jun, unusual loc; 1-3 Seneca River & southwest corner Cross Lake, 3 locs 7, 24 Jun, 15 Jul (KBu); BLNC 13 Jun, on lamp post in parking lot (SKe, ph), unusual loc.
Tennessee Warbler: arr Lakeport 18 Aug; max 2 Fabius 21 Aug; 5 other locs late Aug.
Nashville Warbler: max 7 N HERK 12 Jun.
Mourning Warbler: max 7 Lacona 4 Jun; reps typ places but only 2 at WH.
Common Yellowthroat: max 24 GLSP 25 Jun.
Hooded Warbler: max 12 GB 17 Jun.
American Redstart: max 18 Fult 7 Jul; counts depend on distance/effort.
Cape May Warbler: arr Hastings 15 Aug; 5 other locs late Aug.
Cerulean Warbler: max 11 HI 2 Jun; 1-3 Hannibal, SNC, PPT, several other locs early in season; scarce.
Northern Parula: N HERK nesters var locs Jun/Jul; arr Hastings 29 Aug.
Magnolia Warbler: max 5 MH 11 Jun & N HERK 24 Jul & OSP 31 Aug.
Bay-breasted Warbler: arr Lakeport 18 Aug; 4 SSSP 29 Aug & FH 30 Aug; max 5 Sithe 29 Aug, good num.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 12 N HERK 5 Jul.
Yellow Warbler: common in Reg; max 20 Rome 4 Jun but counts depend on distance/effort; poor mig nums mid-late Aug.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 26 Lacona 4 Jun.
Blackpoll Warbler: last SNC 16 Jun, late; arr Erieville 24 Aug; 2 other locs late Aug.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 9 New Berlin 27 Jun.
Palm Warbler: 3 N HERK 12 Jun; only rep.
Pine Warbler: max 8 Forestport 27 Jun.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 6 N HERK 11 Jul.
Prairie Warbler: GLSP 1-12 Jun, likely nester; 2 Hamilton 2 Jun; GB 24 Jun; Salisbury 15 Aug; only reps.
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 4 N HERK 29 Jun, 3 Jul & Parish 20 Jun.
Canada Warbler: max 4 N HERK 29 Jun.

Wilson's Warbler: arr GB 23 Aug; 2 OSP
31 Aug; only reps.
Scarlet Tanager: max 5 Pratts Falls 9 Jun.
Northern Cardinal: widespread resident.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 13 Cazenovia
25 Jun, 7 Jul.
Indigo Bunting: max 11 Kirkland 19 Jul.

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REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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Summer was mostly warm, with mean monthly temperatures in Watertown exceeding long-term averages by 4.3° F for both June and August, but July's mean temperature was 1.8° below normal. Precipitation was the weather story of the summer, as a six-month dry spell ended abruptly with the start of frequent, heavy rain in late June, although it wasn't enough to keep June from being the sixth consecutive month with below normal precipitation. July and August were very wet, with 7.4" and 6.5" of rain, respectively, more than double the mean for the former month and nearly so for the latter month. By the end of the summer standing water was evident in many places that looked parched at the start of the season.

Summer sightings of Snow Goose and Brant have increased in recent years, so three reports of Snow Goose in late June and July and a single Brant on the St. Lawrence River on 11 June weren't terribly surprising. Trumpeter Swans continue to increase throughout the Region but especially at Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, where multiple nests were documented this year and last, and for the second year in a row double-digit counts of apparently non-breeding adults were routine. Through the first two years of Atlas 2020 Trumpeter Swan nesting has been confirmed in ten blocks in Region 6, up from two in Atlas 2000. Jane Hores photographed a female Common Goldeneye with four chicks off Murray Isle on the St. Lawrence River, immediately east of Picton Island where goldeneye broods were seen in 2020 and several prior years. Goldeneye are not known to nest anywhere else in Region 6. One each male Lesser Scaup and Ruddy Duck were on Perch Lake 19 July, but access restrictions prevented observers from regularly checking this site so it is not known whether these ducks were present for the entire season or represent nesting attempts.

A large outbreak of *Lymantria dispar*, the moth formerly known as Gypsy Moth but now waiting for a new common name, was apparent in oak woodlands on Fort Drum and in scattered patches of mostly oak woods elsewhere. Likely in response to this outbreak, Yellow-billed Cuckoos were unusually abundant throughout Region 6, and Black-billed Cuckoo numbers were high as well. On Fort Drum Red-headed Woodpeckers were observed eating *Lymantria* caterpillars

on several territories. Also noteworthy was that one pair of these Red-headed Woodpeckers still had a nestling on the late date of 30 August.

On 10 June Sandy Pudulka photographed a Sandhill Crane incubating eggs at Lakeview WMA, and pairs with colts were seen near the Lisbon Swamp on 12 July and at Upper and Lower Lakes WMA on 17 July. Family groups were at Perch River WMA in late July and Wilson Hill WMA in late August, but it is unclear where these cranes nested. Cranes have been suspected to nest in each of these locations for several years, but nesting has rarely been documented. A group of eight American Coots at Wilson Hill WMA in August was a high Regional count for summer, and single coots were also at Lakeview WMA and Perch River WMA.

Shorebird habitat on Lake Ontario was scarce because of high water levels, and nine Sanderling at Lakeview WMA was one of the few shorebird reports from the lake shore. Water was also high along the St. Lawrence River, including the stretch between the Iroquois Dam and Moses-Saunders Dam, where management typically results in low water and extensive mudflats by late August. The only location where shorebirds were reliably seen was the Stone Mills Pool at Perch River WMA, which was mostly dry, and where a variety of shorebirds were observed, highlights including a Stilt Sandpiper and at least two Baird's Sandpipers present through the last half of August.

On 10 June Connie Bond saw a Cattle Egret on Point Peninsula, the first summer sighting in many years. Great Egrets colonized the Murphy Islands on the St. Lawrence River during 2020, with at least nine nests this year, for the only known nesting site in Region 6. A large Black-crowned Night-Heron colony and growing numbers of Great Blue Herons also nest on the Murphy Islands, along with many Double-crested Cormorants despite cormorant nests having been removed last year. Unfortunately, I received no colonial waterbird count data this year.

Grassland birds continue to hold on in Jefferson County despite many threats. Nesting was confirmed for Upland Sandpiper in two atlas blocks at Fort Drum, and additional sightings came from Ashland Flats WMA and two sites in Clayton, about typical for recent years. Somewhat surprising was an adult Upland Sandpiper Bernie Carr found in Canton on 11 July, a rare breeding season find for St. Lawrence County. On 4 June Greg Dashnau found one Henslow's Sparrow in a field at Chaumont Barrens that had hosted multiple individuals for several years, but shortly after his visit The Nature Conservancy posted this area off-limits. Despite the presence of four singing males this field was looking too grown up for Henslow's Sparrow in 2020, so a decline to one male this year wouldn't be surprising. As usual, most Henslow's Sparrow reports came from Dog Hill Road at Perch River WMA, where up to five were present, and the only other report was from Fort Drum. About 15 Sedge Wrens were reported from ten locations, more than were expected early in the summer when most fields were extremely dry. Although a few small solar farms have been around for a year or two, development of new solar projects accelerated rapidly this summer, and although

clean energy development is certainly needed, these projects are concerning to local birders as many seem to be planned for some of the best remaining grassland bird habitat in Region 6.

Both crossbills were present again this summer, although breeding has yet to be confirmed in Region 6 for Atlas 2020. Most of the 18 Red Crossbill reports came from the northwest Adirondacks in St. Lawrence County, although Mandi Roggie recorded the season's maximum count of eight in the western Adirondack transition, and there was one report from the edge of the Tug Hill in Jefferson County. All four of the summer's White-winged Crossbill reports came during a ten-day period beginning 15 July, three reports from Massawepie Mire including a season-high four individuals on 23 July, and two calling birds heard flying over Fort Drum on 22 July. The season's only Pine Siskin was at a Norwood feeder on 18 June.

Many fewer birders seemed to visit the northwest Adirondacks this year than in 2020, at least based on eBird checklists, and some boreal species were not well documented. Spruce Grouse and Boreal Chickadee were entirely missed this season, and the latter seems to have disappeared from several locations where it was regular until recently. Probably the most thoroughly birded area in the northwest Adirondacks was around Wanakena. Bernie Carr, who birded the trails south of Wanakena regularly, found a number of interesting birds, chief among them a family group of Rusty Blackbirds on 22 June, a species that had become increasingly scarce as a breeder.

Among the few rarities this season was a **Prothonotary Warbler** Steve Kelling found in Cape Vincent on 21 Jun, the second Regional report this year. Jeremy Collison found the season's only Louisiana Waterthrush near the Oswegatchie River in Rossie on 2 June and a Hooded Warbler in Redfield, one of very few Lewis County records but not too surprising given the proximity of this bird to the well-documented distribution in Oswego County. Northern Parula, historically restricted as a breeder to the Adirondacks and Tug Hill, was noted in seven valley locations, further evidence that this species is expanding its summer range. Nearly two-thirds of the season's 40 Golden-winged Warbler reports were from St. Lawrence County, where only three of 28 Blue-winged Warbler reports came from. It certainly appears that the expansion of Blue-winged Warblers north of about Gouverneur is proceeding very slowly, somewhat surprising given that this species has outnumbered Golden-winged Warblers in much of Jefferson County for nearly a decade. Cerulean Warblers are typically very difficult to find after July, so a male singing on a Dekalb territory 22 August was unexpected.

The summer ended with the most active southbound songbird migration seen in several years. Bay-breasted Warblers were particularly abundant, with at least 60 seen on Fort Drum during the latter half of August, including 33 on 30 August. Tennessee and Cape May Warblers also came through in relatively high numbers. Perhaps the most notable migrant of the season was an early Gray-cheeked Thrush photographed by Haynes Miller on Murray Island on 15 August. Most of the

Region's Gray-cheeked Thrush detections are of nocturnal migrants heard overhead in September.

For the season I received reports of 208 species, slightly more than one species above the most recent 10-year average. There were no real standout rarities, and the few rare birds were only seen by one observer, so it is difficult to pick a clear bird of the season. That Sandhill Cranes were finally documented nesting in several locations where breeding has been suspected for years was among the season's high points. Among the disappointments was the relatively low level of participation in the Breeding Bird Atlas, and through two seasons only two blocks in Region 6 have been completed.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

ADK – Adirondacks; **AFWMA** – Ashland Flats WMA; **BPWMA** – Black Pd WMA; **BRB** – Black River Bay; **CBr** – Chaumont Barrens Pres; **CV** – T Cape Vincent; **ED** – El Dorado Pres, T Ellisburg; **FD** – Fort Drum Military Reservation, JEFF & LEWI; **JEFF** – Jefferson County; **LBSF** – Lonesome Bay State Forest, T Hammond; **LEWI** – Lewis County; **LWMA** – Lakeview WMA; **MM** – Massawepie Mire, T Colton & Piercefield, STLA; **PRWMA** – Perch Ri WMA, JEFF; **RLT** – Richard's Landing Trail, T Massena; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, T Massena; **RRT** – Remington Recreation Trail, T Canton; **RWSP** – Robert Wehle SP; **SLR** – St. Lawrence Ri; **STLA** – St. Lawrence County; **StPt** – Stony Pt, T Henderson, JEFF; **ULLWMA** – Upper and Lower Lakes WMA, T Canton; **WHWMA** – Wilson Hill WMA; **WP** – Whalen P, T Louisville.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: SLR T Oswegatchie 29 Jun (ET); T Massena 8 Jul (JH); T Hounsfield 19 Jul (SA)
Brant: SLR T Oswegatchie 11 Jun (ET) late, only rep.
Mute Swan: max 14 SLR T Hammond 31 Aug.
Trumpeter Swan: max 19 ULLWMA 9 Jun; 2 T Dekalb 13 Jun & 2 French Creek WMA 28

Jun only reps away from well known PRWMA, ULLWMA & WHWMA breeding sites.

Wood Duck: max 55 LWMA 10 Jun (SP).

Blue-winged Teal: max 159 WP 28 Aug.

Northern Shoveler: AFWMA 4 Jun only rep before 10 Aug; max 2 WHWMA 28 Aug.

Gadwall: max 4 WHWMA 31 Jul & 15 Aug.

American Wigeon: ULLWMA 3 Jun & 2 PRWMA 18 Jul only reps before Aug; max 10 WHWMA 23 Aug.

Mallard: max 315 WHWMA 1 Aug.

American Black Duck: max 20 PRWMA 30 Jul.
Northern Pintail: WHWMA 1 Aug thru; RLT 15 Aug; only reps.

Green-winged Teal: max 153 WP 28 Aug.
Redhead: 3 WHWMA 15 Aug only rep.
Ring-necked Duck: max 38 ULLWMA 10 Aug incl 6 broods.
Lesser Scaup: ad m Perch L 19 Jul (JB, IM) only rep.
Common Goldeneye: f w 4 juv Murray I 9 Jun (J Hores) rare breeder SLR.
Hooded Merganser: max 15 WHWMA 28 Aug.
Common Merganser: max 27 RLT 28 Aug.
Red-breasted Merganser: 2 CV 19 Jun to 4 Jul; T Alexandria 15 Jul.
Ruddy Duck: ad m Perch L 19 Jul (JB, IM) only rep.
Pied-billed Grebe: max 49 ULLWMA 10 Aug.
Mourning Dove: max 81 T Henderson 23 Jul.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: reps of at least 34 ind from 30 locations, high; max 3 FD 9 Jun.
Black-billed Cuckoo: 80+ reps, good year.
Common Nighthawk: presumed northbound migrants BPWMA & T Canton 4 Jun, L Ozonia 6 Jun after which StPt 12 Jun & T Lowville 6 Jul only reps away from known FD nesting area until southbound migration; max 17 T Antwerp 18 Aug.
Eastern Whip-poor-will: max 20 CBr 3 Jun.
Chimney Swift: max 34 T Croghan 18 Jul.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Virginia Rail: max 6 T Hermon 7 Aug.
Sora: max 3 T Hermon 24 Jun.
Common Gallinule: max 18 PRWMA 20 Aug.
American Coot: max 8 WHWMA 21-23 Aug; reps LWMA & PRWMA; more than usual for summer.
Sandhill Crane: nest with eggs LWMA 10 Jun (S. Podulka); pr w colt T Lisbon 12 Jul (JBo); pr w 2 colts ULLWMA 17 Jul (A. Ross); fam grps PRWMA 31 Jul, T Lisbon 13 Aug & WHWMA 16-28 Aug (mob).
Black-bellied Plover: max 2 PRWMA 17 Aug.
American Golden-Plover: WHWMA 20 Aug only rep.
Semipalmated Plover: max 30 PRWMA 24 Aug.

Killdeer: max 45 RLT 24 Aug.
Upland Sandpiper: multiple reps T Clayton 2-20 Jun; T Canton 11 Jul (B. Carr) rare rep away from W JEFF; AFWMA 16 Jun; breeding confirmed 2 blocks FD 29 Jun & 3 Jul.
Stilt Sandpiper: PRWMA 18 Aug thru.
Sanderling: max 9 LWMA 22 Aug.
Baird's Sandpiper: 1-2/day PRWMA 17 Aug thru; only reps.
Least Sandpiper: last northbound migrants 10 LWMA 6 Jun; southbound migrants arr ED 17 Jul; max 80 PRWMA 21 Aug.
Pectoral Sandpiper: max 8 PRWMA 17 Aug.
Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 27 RLT 28 Aug.
Short-billed Dowitcher: max 2 WHWMA 17 Jul.
American Woodcock: 5 peenting and displaying same FD field 29 Jul high for so late.
Wilson's Snipe: max 17 PRWMA 20 Aug.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 16 RLT 8 Aug.
Solitary Sandpiper: arr AFWMA 7 Jul.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 64 PRWMA 17 Aug.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 15 PRWMA 31 Aug.
Bonaparte's Gull: max 4 LWMA 6 Jul.
Great Black-backed Gull: 8 reps 1-2 from 6 sites SLR & L Ontario.
Caspian Tern: no nest counts provided.
Black Tern: Sucker L T Fine 17 Aug obvious migrant, only rep away from PRWMA, ULLWMA, WHWMA where nest.
Common Tern: 593 nests SLR lowest in 10 yrs but productivity highest same period.

LOONS – PARAKEET

Common Loon: max 12 ad Chippewa Bay 18 Jul.
Double-crested Cormorant: no nest counts provided.
Least Bittern: reps from 15 locations more than usual.
Great Egret: at least 9 nests at recently colonized Murphy Islands; max 23 WHWMA 13 Aug.
Cattle Egret: Lisa Drive CV 10 Jun (C. Bond).
Green Heron: max 24 ULLWMA 7 Aug.
Turkey Vulture: max 32 T Canton 1 Jul.
Osprey: nesting confirmed in 61 atlas blocks through 2nd year Atlas 2020 compared to 30 blocks Atlas 2000; increase continues.
Northern Harrier: 110 reps from 35+ sites.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: 22 reps.

Cooper's Hawk: 24 reps.

Northern Goshawk: T Potsdam 3 Jun (T. Langen).

Bald Eagle: nest confirmed 15 atlas blocks thru two years compared to 9 Atlas 2000.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 18 reports.

Eastern Screech-Owl: juv T Antwerp 23 Jul; 4 reps elsewhere JEFF & STLA.

Red-headed Woodpecker: failed nest CV Jun (N. Leone) only rep away from FD; max 15 FD 22 Jul; nestling still in FD nest 31 Aug (late).

Red-bellied Woodpecker: reps from 30 sites none N of central STLA.

Black-backed Woodpecker: 15 reps from 5 sites SE STLA.

American Kestrel: max 6 T Canton 9 Jul & CV 30 Aug.

Merlin: 80+ reps from 46 sites; increasing everywhere.

Peregrine Falcon: T Rutland 15 Jun; 1-2/day PRWMA 31 Jul thru; T Alexandria 4 Aug; only sites away from known or suspected nesting areas along SLR or in T Watertown.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: 31 reps from 12 ADK sites during nesting season; migrants T Croghan 20 Aug & T Brownville 24 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last migrant outside ADK FD 16 Jun; max 4 MM 13 Jun low; fall migrants arr Murray I 17 Aug.

Philadelphia Vireo: last spring migrant Blake Sanctuary T Watertown 9 Jun; 2 Cranberry L 15 Jun & LPd 29 Jun only reps from likely nesting locations; fall arr T Croghan 19 Aug.

Canada Jay: max 3 MM multiple dates.

Horned Lark: no reps.

Purple Martin: max 20 Wilson Hill I 16 Jul.

Tree Swallow: max 100 PRWMA 27 Aug, numbers low in many areas.

Bank Swallow: max 40 LWMA 4 Jun but no reps from Sparrowhawk Point where many more likely present.

Cliff Swallow: max reported 12 RMSP 4 Jun & RLT 28 Aug in section SLR where hundreds typically nest.

Barn Swallow: max 127 PRWMA 31 Jul.

Boreal Chickadee: no reps; apparently disappeared from several previously reliable locations SE STLA.

Sedge Wren: 2 LWMA thru 3 Jul (mob); different locations T Clayton 9 & 16 Jun (C. Sayers, M. Wickens); different locations T Canton 6 Jul & 17-25 Jul (T. Langen, JBo); 2 PRWMA 8 Jul & 3 same location 19 Jul (S.

Mix, I. Mazzocchi, JBo); 2 T Hermon 11-26 Jul (JB); 2 near Hickory L SF 13 Jul (JBo); new arr FD 21 Jul & 2 Aug (JBo).

Carolina Wren: reps from 20 sites; more than in several years.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 3 LBSF 5 Jul; reps from 6 additional sites.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: max 3 MM 23 Jul (D. & S. Ceravolo); 10 reps T Fine unclear how many ind.

Gray-checked Thrush: Murray I 15 Aug (H. Miller, photos!) early.

Swainson's Thrush: migrants arr RRT 29 Aug.

Northern Mockingbird: 8 reports all W JEFF.

Red Crossbill: 18 reps mostly SE STLA thru; exceptions incl 5 Winona Experimental Forest 5 Jun & max 8 T Croghan 16 Jun.

White-winged Crossbill: 2 MM 15 Jul; 2 FD 22 Jul; max 4 MM 23 Jul; last MM 24 Jul.

Pine Siskin: T Norwood 18 Jun only rep.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Clay-colored Sparrow: max 13 FD 12 Jul; reps from 4 additional sites NW JEFF.

Vesper Sparrow: max 39 FD 3 Jul.

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 21 FD 3 Jul; reps from 7 sites away from FD all W JEFF.

Henslow's Sparrow: FD 1 Jun to 28 Jul (JBo); CBr 4 Jun (G. Dashnau) just before site was posted off-limits; 1-5/day PRWMA 16 Jun thru (mob); only reps.

Lincoln's Sparrow: max 12 MM 23 Jul.

Dark-eyed Junco: Red L 26 Jul only Jun-Jul rep outside ADK or Tug Hill; FD 25 Aug presumed early migrant.

Orchard Oriole: T Hounsfield 5 Jun; CV 7 & 29 Jun; LWMA 10 & 13 Jun; T Henderson 19 Jun; only reps.

Rusty Blackbird: Janick's Landing Trail T Fine 16-30 Jun incl fam grp 22 Jun (B. Carr); Cranberry Lake Biological Station 26 Jun (N. Gabry); Dead Creek Flow T Fine 20 Jul (B. Carr); only reps.

Louisiana Waterthrush: T Rossie 2 Jun (J. Collison) only rep.

Golden-winged Warbler: at least 66 ind from about 40 sites of which 25 sites STLA.

Blue-winged Warbler: 28 reports of 65+ ind, all but 3 reps JEFF.

"Brewster's" Warbler: 13 reps of 18 ind.

"Lawrence's" Warbler: FD 29 Jul only rep.

Prothonotary Warbler: CV 27 Jun (SK) only rep.

Tennessee Warbler: arr Murray I 17 Aug; max 18 FD 23 Aug.

Hooded Warbler: Line Brook SF 12 Jun (J. Collison) among few LEWI records although adjacent to known breeding range in Oswego County; 4 reps nearby S JEFF.

Cape May Warbler: 2 arr Murray I 7 Aug early; max 18 FD 30 Aug.

Cerulean Warbler: max 7 LBSF 5 Jul (BB); singing male at traditional T Dekalb nesting site 22 Aug (JB) late.

Northern Parula: LBSF 1 Jun; 2 ICNC 7 Jun; singing m Murray I & PRWMA 19 Jul; different loc FD 28 Jul & 4 Aug & T West Turin 8 Aug; more than usual away from ADK & Tug Hill where common; *intro*.

Magnolia Warbler: several reports 1-2 CBr 15 Jun to 18 Jul; singing m PRWMA 19 Jul;

only reps away from ADK & Tug Hill before Aug.

Bay-breasted Warbler: 3 arr FD 18 Aug where 60 tallied by end month incl max 33 FD 30 Aug (JBo) high.

Blackpoll Warbler: last spring migrant T Rodman 10 Jun; southbound migrants arr CBr 19 Aug.

Palm Warbler: max 30 MM 23 Jul; additional nesting reps from Cranberry Lake Biological Station & Low's Ridge Upper Dam trail; migrants arr WHWMA 21 Aug.

Prairie Warbler: max 28 FD 12 Jun; up to 6/day CBr and at least 5 nearby loc; RWSP 25 Jun & 1 Jul only rep away from traditional nesting areas.

Wilson's Warbler: arr ED 25 Aug.

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REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

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In general, the eastern portion of the Champlain Valley and Region 7 were drier than the rest of the Region with only 2-3" of rain in June. The balance of the Region, the western half of Clinton and Essex Counties, most of Franklin County, and the northern half of Hamilton County got 3-4". The southern half of Franklin County and a small area of Hamilton County received 4-6". Overall, June was warmer than the average with the Champlain Valley and areas along the border with Canada enduring temperatures 3-5° F above normal. However, areas south and west of those were cooler, but still 1-3° higher than normal.

While July was the warmest month on record worldwide, it was significantly cooler than normal in Region 7. The entire Region averaged 1-3° lower than average. The exception was the central section of Hamilton County which hovered within a degree either way of normal. Precipitation for July in most areas was substantial. The lowest, 3-5", fell in Clinton County. Franklin County received 5-7" while the entire southern half of Region 7 including the High Peaks area got 9-11".

August saw the return of warmer than normal temperatures to Region 7. Almost all of the Region was 3-5° above normal for the month. Only the western

portion of Franklin County, the northern half of Hamilton County, and a sliver of Essex County averaged 1-3° warmer than normal. Rainfall averages for Region 7 increased from northeast to southwest. Most of the Champlain Valley received 3-4". A band arcing northwest to southeast from western Clinton County through northern Essex County got 4-5" on average, while the High Peaks Region got 5-6". Most of Hamilton County got 6-7" though there were small sections that endured 7-8" or more.

On 1 June the level of Lake Champlain stood at 96.1'. At that level the Chazy Riverlands and Laurin's Pool provided a minimum of acceptable habitat for migrating shorebirds. The best find there was an American Golden-Plover. From the early June level of just above 96', the lake continued the steady, linear decline begun in May to about 94.9' in early July. There it bottomed out and fluctuated only a few inches for a week to ten days. Heavy rains from 18-23 July resulted in a sharp increase of 0.8' to 95.5'. Significant but intermittent rainfall from the last week in July to mid-August kept the lake at a remarkably steady 95.3' to 95.5'. Levels for the last half of the month dipped, rose, and dipped again in a narrow range of 95.2' to 94.7'. At these levels Laurin's Pool was dry, taken over by thigh-high vegetation and used in part for an ATV track. As a result most fall shorebird reports for Region 7 came from Essex County's Hoisington Brook Outlet and Noblewood Park. In the ten years since the all-time record flood level of nearly 103.3' in 2011, Lake Champlain has reached flood stage of 100' only three times and then not by much. This lack of seasonal flooding appears to have significantly changed the nature of Laurin's Pool and, to a lesser extent, of the Chazy Riverlands in general. The results of the current atlasing project should be useful in addressing this issue.

Once again **Sandhill Crane** bred successfully at the Tupper Lake site. Previously rare in summer, **Baird's Sandpiper** was recorded at two separate sites to continue its yearly appearance since 2013. A **Western Sandpiper** at Hoisington Beach Outlet was only the second eBird record in summer for Region 7. A check of pre-eBird records turned up six additional summer sightings since 1980. The July appearance of **Western Willet** was the first known record specifically for this subspecies and only the third summer record for either Willet.

Perhaps the most puzzling event of Summer involved the staggering drop in annual Bonaparte's Gulls numbers. Historically, beginning in late July into early August, the Adirondack's Lake Champlain region begins its steady trickle of arriving Bonaparte's Gulls as they begin staging along the rich deltas and sandbars that form at the major river mouths such as the Boquet and Ausable Rivers. Little Gull is typically annual here every summer in low numbers as they associate with the Bonaparte's Gulls. When birds aren't staging on the sandy deltas they are out foraging in the middle of the lake and it's not unusual to see several hundred birds with multiple large feeding flocks. The first arrivals are always full-hooded adults, followed by juveniles a couple of weeks later. Numbers usually reach their maximum in August or early September and it's not unusual to find upwards of three hundred to four hundred individuals.

Bonaparte's Gulls were alarmingly absent this season, representing an historic low. At Noblewood Park for example, the maximum recorded number of Bonaparte's Gulls this season was 19 individuals, with otherwise single digit encounters during a time in which low hundreds have been regularly recorded annually as far back as the year 2001. Routine trips to other known staging areas from mid to late August consistently turned up zero individuals, which is astonishing considering that Bonaparte's Gulls are often the dominant gull species along Lake Champlain in eBird checklists throughout August and September.

The June sighting of a **Great Cormorant** was the first summer record for Region 7. The single report of a **Snowy Egret** this season followed the two separate sightings of this species this spring. Until then Snowy Egret hadn't been seen since 2015. The **Tricolored Heron** found at Ausable Point was only the fourth for the Region and the first since 1989. Very rare for Region 7, a **Red-headed Woodpecker** reported in June was only the fifth record since the turn of the century. Known to have bred in Clinton County, a **Clay-colored Sparrow** was photographed and an audio recording was collected of the bird that lingered at Willsboro for three days in June. In each of the last two years **Grasshopper Sparrow** has been found on Whallons Bay Rd. This is perhaps cause for some encouragement after the extirpation of the colony (up to 17 individuals) from the flight line of the former Plattsburgh Air Force Base, when it was closed and the mowing protocol was changed by the Clinton County Airport.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

4BI – Four Brothers Islands; **AFR** – Altona Flat Rock; **AM** – Ausable Marsh; **AP** – Ausable Pt; **ARd** – Atwood Rd; **AT** – Altona; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog; **BBB** – Bulwagga Bay Beach; **BLT** – Boreal Life Trail; **BRR** – Bull Rock Rd; **BRv** – Boquet Ri; **BS** – Big Slide; **Cad** – Cadyville; **CBL** – Chazy Boat Launch; **CbR** – Chubb Ri; **CH** – Cumberland

Head; **ChR** – Chapman Rd; **Chu** – Churubusco; **CMR** – Coon Mt Reserve; **CMt** – Cascade Mt; **CP** – Crown Pt; **CR** – Chazy Riverlands; **CRF** – Cedar Ri Flow; **CRT** – Cold Ri Horse Trail; **CZ** – Chazy; **DHL** – Deep Hole Leanto; **DRd** – Davern Rd; **EAW** – Eight Acre Wood; **ED** – Ellenberg Depot; **Es** – Essex; **EWB** – Edgar Wadhams Homestead; **FCo** – Franklin Co; **FCR** – Fred Carey Rd; **FLk** – Fern L; **FOR** – Forest Rd; **GL** – Gilman L; **GSt** – Gray St; **HB** – Hoisington Beach/Brook; **Inl** – Inlet; **JD** – John Dillon P; **KB** – Kings Bay; **KR** – Kildare Rd; **LBR** – Lower Boquet Ri; **LCI** – Lake Clear; **LCR** – Little Chazy Ri; **LCTM** – Lower La Chute Ticonderoga Marsh; **LL** – Long L; **LLk** – Lows L; **LMt** – Lyon Mt; **LPI** – Lake Pleasant; **LSL** – Lower Saranac L; **Mal** – Malone; **MF** – Madawaska Flow; **Min** – Minerva; **MM** – Maple Meadows; **MPk** – Macomb Reservation SP; **New** – Newcomb; **NP** – Noblewood P; **OB** – Oseetah Bay; **OH** – Owls Head; **OPR** – Oregon Plains Rd; **OR** – Osgood Ri; **PC** – Putts Creek; **PD** – Port Douglas; **PH** – Port Henry; **PL** – Paradox L; **POM** – Poke-O-Moonshine; **PP** – Powley Pd; **PPI** – Powley Place; **PS** – Paul Smiths; **PtR** – Point Au Roche SP; **Put** – Putnam; **RL** – Raquette L; **RMt** – Round Mt; **SC** – Sabattis Circle; **SCK** – Scomotion Creek; **SL** – Saranac L; **SLk** – Schroon L; **SP** – Shaw Pd; **Spec** – Speculator; **SRCA** – St. Regis Canoe Area; **TI** – Ticonderoga; **TRd** – Tahawus Rd; **VV** – Vermontville; **WB** – Whallons Bay; **WBR** – Whallons Bay Rd; **WI** – Willsboro; **Wit** – Witherbee; **WM** – Wickham Marsh; **WMt** – Whiteface Mt; **WP** – Westport; **WPt** – Willsboro Pt; **WRS** – Webb Royce Swamp; **WTB** – Wilmington Town Beach; **XAB** – former-Plattsburgh Air Force Base.
Co-CF, -CS, -FL, -FY, -NY, -ON -UN – Atlas breeding codes (see page 419).

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Wood Duck: LBR 12 Jun (SR), Co-FL.
Blue-winged Teal: 2 DRd 4 Jul (JR); 8 CBL 15 Aug (AB), Co-FL.
Northern Shoveler: CR 2 Aug (BK).
Gadwall: 2 FCo 10 Jul (NR).
Northern Pintail: 3 CP 30 Aug (SR).
Green-winged Teal: 5 CP 14 Aug (CV).
Ring-necked Duck: 6 PS 24 Jun (AM, MFi), Co-FL.
Greater Scaup: 4 AM 29 Jul (SR).
Bufflehead: WP 20 Jul (JB, BMc).
Common Goldeneye: 23 AM 1 Aug (mo).
Hooded Merganser: CbR 12 Jun (MF), Co-FL.
Common Merganser: 5 CH 16 Aug (SJ, BK), Co-FL.
Red-breasted Merganser: 2 NP 29 Jul (SR).
Ring-necked Pheasant: WI 19 Jun (DHR).
Ruffed Grouse: 4 WB 16 Aug (M&GC), Co-FL.
Wild Turkey: 7 ARd 2 Jul (ABd), Co-FL.
Pied-billed Grebe: 6 CBL 15 Aug (AB), Co-FL.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo: WM 2 Jun (RB).
Black-billed Cuckoo: WP 12 Jul (SR), Co-CF.
Common Nighthawk: 25 Peru 17 Aug (KC).
Eastern Whip-poor-will: PD 24 Aug (DHR).
Chimney Swift: 45 SL 9 Jul (CV), Co-CF.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 2 CH 18 Aug (BK).

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Virginia Rail: 4 SP 21 Jun (JT), Co-FL.
Common Gallinule: WM 16 Jun (SRo); FCR 7 Jul (SR).
SANDHILL CRANE (R7): 3 OB 12 Jun (MG), Co-FL.
Black-bellied Plover: 4 CR 2 Jun (BK).
American Golden-Plover: CR 2 Jun (BK).
Semipalmated Plover: 2 BBB 4 Aug (SR).
Killdeer: 3 TI 5 Jul (GC), Co-FL.
Ruddy Turnstone: NP 1 Aug (PM, TS, BB, BF).
Stilt Sandpiper: CR 26 Aug (S&MR); HB 26 Aug (MI).
Sanderling: NP 21 Jul (DHR); 7 NP 11 Aug (DHR).
BAIRD'S SANDPIPER (R7): HB 14 Aug thru (SR); WD 26 Aug (S&MR); BBB 28 Aug (SR); NP 31 Aug (SR, RB).
Least Sandpiper: 2 CR 2 Jun (BK); 27 NP 13 Jun (GC).
Pectoral Sandpiper: NP 11 Aug (DHR).
Semipalmated Sandpiper: 6 CR 2 Jun (BK); NP 21 Jul (DHR).
WESTERN SANDPIPER: HB 12 Jul (DHR, ph).

Short-billed Dowitcher: NP 13 Jul (GC); KB 26 Aug (S&MR); HB 29 Aug (RB, mob); NP 31 Aug (S&MR).
American Woodcock: 6 OH 17 Aug (JHo).
Wilson's Snipe: 4 CRF 8 Jun (GL).
Spotted Sandpiper: 3 NP 23 Jun (GC), Co-FL.
Solitary Sandpiper: PtR 6 Jul (BFi), early.
Lesser Yellowlegs: 5 KB 10 Jul (SR); 21 KB 26 Aug (S&MR).
"Western" WILLET (R7): HB 13 Jul (DHR).
Greater Yellowlegs: NP 13 Jul (GC).
Bonaparte's Gull: 4 NP 20 Jul (JB); max 33 AP 5 Aug (SR); historic low; *intro*.
Ring-billed Gull: 2,500 4BI 20 Jun (DHR).
Herring Gull: 4 LSL 1 Jun (SB), Co-ON; 250 4BI 20 Jun (DHR).
Great Black-backed Gull: 125 4BI 20 Jun (DHR), Co-FL.
Herring X Great Black-backed Gull: NP 11 Aug (DHR).
Caspian Tern: 125 4BI 20 Jun (DHR), Co-FL.
Black Tern: AP 1 Aug (PM, TS, BB, BF).
Common Tern: 2 AP 20 Jul (CS).

LOONS – PARAKEET

Common Loon: 2 GL 21 Jun (BD), Co-CN.
Double-crested Cormorant: 1,500 4BI 20 Jun (DHR), Co-FL; 5000 4BI 6 Aug (DHR).
GREAT CORMORANT (R7): WP 9 Jun (DHR).
American Bittern: 6 SC 4 Jul (J&PC), Co-FL.
Least Bittern: WM 2 Jun (RB); WM 10 Aug (SR).
Great Blue Heron: 23 4BI 20 Jun (DHR), Co-FY.
Great Egret: 7 4BI 20 Jun (DHR), Co-CN.
SNOWY EGRET (R7): SRCA 6 Jun (TW).
TRICOLORED HERON (R7): AP 30 Jun-1 Jul (BFu, SR).
Green Heron: 5 EWH 28 Jul (SR).
Black-crowned Night-Heron: 31 4BI 6 Aug (DHR), Co-FL.
Black Vulture: AM 21 Jun (BK).
Turkey Vulture: 26 WTB 31 Aug (DQ).
Osprey: 3 AP 11 Jul (GR).
Northern Harrier: 2 AM 22 Aug (SBe).
Sharp-shinned Hawk: LCI 10 Aug (SMc).
Cooper's Hawk: BRR 23 Aug (G&MC).
Bald Eagle: 4 OH June 12 (JTr), Co-NY.
Red-shouldered Hawk: CMR 4 Jun (DHR).
Broad-winged Hawk: 3 PS 4 Aug (PR), Co-FL.
Red-tailed Hawk: 2 WPt 31 Jul (OS).

Eastern Screech-Owl: CZ 5 Jun (GR), Co-ON.
Great Horned Owl: LL 4 Jun (JaG).
Barred Owl: 2 Wit 11 Jul (SR).
Northern Saw-whet Owl: KR 11 Jul (GB).
Belted Kingfisher: BRv 12 Jun (SR), Co-FL.
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (R7): Peru 18 Jun (CS).
Red-bellied Woodpecker: PH 30 Jun (SR).
Co-CF.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 2 FLk 7 Jul (DN), Co-FL.
Black-backed Woodpecker: 4 OPR 19 Jul (GB).
Northern Flicker: 5 BB 20 Aug (WW).
Pileated Woodpecker: 2 WM 16 Jun (SR).
American Kestrel: Chu 10 Jun (SR), Co-ON.
Merlin: 2 RL 30 Jul (BL), Co-FY.
Peregrine Falcon: 2 POM 23 Jun (LM), Co-ON.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: LCTM 24 Jun (SR), Co-CF.
Eastern Kingbird: LBR 12 Jun (SR), Co-CF.
Olive-sided Flycatcher: 4 PS 13 Jun (mo).
Eastern Wood-Pewee: 6 PH 8 Jul (SR), Co-FL.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 5 MF 30 Jul (BFo), Co-FY.
Alder Flycatcher: 3 For 2 Jun (SR).
Willow Flycatcher: 3 AM 23 Jun (GC).
Least Flycatcher: 3 AFR 3 Jul (DHR).
Eastern Phoebe: 5 AM 10 Aug (OS).
Yellow-throated Vireo: BRv 12 Jun (SR).
Blue-headed Vireo: 5 PH 8 Jul (SR), Co-FL.
Philadelphia Vireo: 2 CP 30 Aug (SR).
Warbling Vireo: 3 LCR 15 Jul (SR), Co-FY.
Red-eyed Vireo: 15 CRT 12 Jun (G&MC).
Canada Jay: 4 BB 1 Jul (SG), Co-FL.
Fish Crow: SLk 3 Jun (EG).
Common Raven: 4 RL 18 Jun (GL), Co-FL.
Purple Martin: 2 AM 24 Jul (GH).
Tree Swallow: 120 NP 1 Aug (TS).
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: 12 TI 27 Jun (EB), Co-ON.
Bank Swallow: 5 Mal 2 Jul (ED), Co-UN.
Cliff Swallow: 2 CP 21 Jun (SR), Co-ON; 44 WP 27 Jul (DHR).
Barn Swallow: 13 CP 21 Jun (SR), Co-NY; 76 CP 12 Aug (SR).
Boreal Chickadee: 3 CMt 12 Jul (EDr), Co-FY.
Tufted Titmouse: PC 29 Jun (SR), Co-CF.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: 4 BLT 14 Jun (JGg), Co-FL.
White-breasted Nuthatch: 3 DHL 15 Jun (G&MC), Co-FL.
Brown Creeper: CRT 12 Jun (G&MC), Co-FL.
House Wren: 2 MM 4 Jul (SR), Co-NY.
Winter Wren: 4 Spec 4 Jul (MS), Co-FY.
Sedge Wren: Peru 18 Jun (CS); WI 18 Jul-2 Aug (JCo, mo).
Marsh Wren: 8 SCk 10 Jul (SR), Co-FY.
Carolina Wren: CH 1 Jun-31 Aug (NO).
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 3 CP 11 Aug (SR).
Golden-crowned Kinglet: 5 CbR 15 Jul (SR), Co-FL.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 2 WMt 15 Jul (GB), Co-FL.
Veery: 3 MPk 1 Jul (SR), Co-FL.
Bicknell's Thrush: LMT 12 Jun (JG); 28 WMt 1 Jul (JC); WMt 15 Jul (GB), Co-FL.
Swainson's Thrush: PS 24 Jun (AM, MFe), Co-CF.
Hermit Thrush: BB 5 Jul (SR), Co-NY.
Wood Thrush: 4 BRR 12 Aug (G&MC), Co-FL.
Gray Catbird: AM 5 Aug (SR), Co-FL.
Brown Thrasher: 3 CP 23 Jun (SR).
Northern Mockingbird: XAB 3 Jul (CV).
Cedar Waxwing: CP 24 Jun (SR), Co-ON.
Evening Grosbeak: 2 PL 2 Jul (EG), Co-FL.
Purple Finch: 14 GS 9 Jul (WW); 2 AP 13 Aug (JB), Co-FL.
Red Crossbill: 20 Inl 10 Jun (EM).
Red Crossbill type 10: OB 26 Aug (MMA).
White-winged Crossbill: 18 OR 5 Jun (JS).
American Goldfinch: 3 HB 31 Aug (SR), Co-NY.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: 5 AT 19 Jun (BC).
Chipping Sparrow: 6 FoR 10 Jun (SR).
CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (R7): WI 10-12 Jun (DHR), ph.
Savannah Sparrow: 10 Peru 10 Jul (JCo).
GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (R7): 1-3 WBR 18 Jun-5 Jul (DHR).
Lincoln's Sparrow: 7 BB 24 Jun (SD), Co-CF.
Swamp Sparrow: New 13 Jun (DG), Co-CF.
White-throated Sparrow: 6 BB 22 Aug (JB), Co-FL.

Dark-eyed Junco: 5 WMt 21 Jul (BMc), Co-FL.
Bobolink: CP 24 Jun (SR), Co-CF; 50 CR 15 Aug (AB).
Eastern Meadowlark: 2 WP 1 Jul (SR), Co-FL.
Orchard Oriole: 2 CP 21 Jun (SR).
Baltimore Oriole: ED 2 Jun (SR), Co-ON.
Brown-headed Cowbird: 20 NP 22 Jun (OS).
Rusty Blackbird: 6 PP 16 Jun (CK), Co-FL.
Ovenbird: 2 EAW 3 Jul (GL), Co-FY.
Louisiana Waterthrush: Put 2 Jun (G&MC), Co-CF.
Northern Waterthrush: 4 OPR 9 Jul (JB).
Golden-winged Warbler: WRS 11 Jun (SR); 2 FtC 20 Aug (AB), Co-CF.
Blue-winged Warbler: WRS 11 Jun (SR).
Black-and-white Warbler: 2 Min 29 Jul (DS), Co-FL.
Tennessee Warbler: 6 SL 31 Aug (JP).
Nashville Warbler: 4 BB 11 Jul (JB), Co-CF.
Mourning Warbler: 4 LCI 13 Jun (SMC).
Common Yellowthroat: BB 22 Jun (AM), Co-CF.
American Redstart: LCTM 24 Jun (SR), Co-CF.
Cape May Warbler: WMt 2 Jun (JG); 12 LCI 27 Aug (SMc).
Northern Parula: 6 OH 14 Jul (AB).
Magnolia Warbler: BB 5 Jul (SR), Co-CF.
Bay-breasted Warbler: BB 11 Aug (JB).
Blackburnian Warbler: 40 Rmt 7 Jul (HK).
Yellow Warbler: 10 AM 11 Jul (JR).
Chestnut-sided Warbler: PPI 4 Jul (MF), Co-CF.
Blackpoll Warbler: 2 BS 26 Aug (MI).
Black-throated Blue Warbler: 6 Cad 26 Jun (AM).
Palm Warbler: 5 BB 24 Jun (SD), Co-FL.
Pine Warbler: 3 NP 23 Jun (GC), Co-FY.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: 9 LLk 16 Jul (G&MC), Co-FY.
Prairie Warbler: CP 21 Jun (SR); CP 10 Aug (RB).
Black-throated Green Warbler: 30 Rmt 7 Jul (HK).
Canada Warbler: 2 MF 30 Jul (BFo), Co-FL.
Wilson's Warbler: MF 17 Jun (JC).
Scarlet Tanager: 2 WM 4 Jul (JS).
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 4 Es 30 Jun (SR).
Indigo Bunting: 4 Min 7 Jul (JA), Co-FL.

REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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	Albany			Glens Falls		
Temp	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Jun	68.2°	68.4°	-0.2°	67.9°	35.6°	+2.9°
Jul	67.8°	73.1°	-5.3°	67.7°	30.6°	-2.0°
Aug	70.9°	71.4°	-0.5°	70.8°	67.8°	+3.0°
Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Jun	2.70"	4.05"	-1.35"	5.65"	4.06"	+1.93"
Jul	8.96"	4.55"	+4.41"	8.05"	4.26"	+3.79"
Aug	3.43"	3.09"	-0.33"	3.81"	3.48"	+0.33"

June 2021 featured normal temperatures and dry conditions in the southern half of the Region, with a warmer and wetter period to the north. The warmest temperatures of the season occurred at the end of the month with three days at or above 90° F at Albany. July was unusually colder and wetter than normal, so much so that the mean temperature was lower than the month of June. Twice as much rain fell compared to normal, with 25 days featuring measurable precipitation at Albany. August was the warmest of the three summer months. Precipitation amounts for August were close to the long-term average.

Normally, the sighting of a **Wood Stork** in our area would easily garner ‘Bird of the Season’ honors, but that bird, observed 5-7 August in Ghent, Columbia County and originally found by Larry Steele, must take a backseat to the **Roseate Spoonbill** photographed by Laura Heil along New Swamp Rd. in Kingsbury, Washington County on 24 July. Part of the amazing northward dispersal of this species in 2021, to my knowledge this represents the first Regional record. Higher than normal numbers of others ‘waders’, including Little Blue Heron and Cattle Egret, were also noted during the summer and into autumn of this year, so it will be interesting to see if excellent breeding success, or other factors, were behind this extraordinary movement.

A **Prothonotary Warbler** was observed on 6 June at the Surrender March Trail near Schuylerville, Saratoga County. This is the same location, and date, where a singing bird was observed last year in this dense, swampy habitat. A male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was seen and photographed in a rural agricultural area near Carlisle, Schoharie County on 8 June. At Saratoga National Historical Park, a Yellow-breasted Chat was a one-day wonder, perhaps, on 1 June. Another was observed near Whitehall in Washington County on 16 June. It was photographed, and audio recordings were made.

Both Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos seemed to be more common this summer, especially the latter. Bob Yunick observed in his Summer 2021 Field Notes:

“A gypsy moth infestation occurred locally in parts of Schenectady, Saratoga and Warren counties. The West Hill area (Rotterdam, Schenectady County) was hit extensively. While checking nest boxes there on 6/10, I heard 5 Blk-b Cuckoos, more than I’ve ever encountered anywhere/time in my lifetime.”

Bicknell’s Thrush were reported from two mountain tops in the Catskills of Greene County, specifically Hunter and Plateau Mountains. A Sedge Wren was initially heard, then tracked down and observed visually in a wet hayfield in the Fort Edward Grasslands in Washington County on 26 June.

A singing Acadian Flycatcher was noted in Rensselaerville State Forest, Albany County, on 8 June. This observation continues the general site-fidelity for this species since at least 2013 (eBird reports in 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2021). Bill Cook passed along this information concerning Acadian Flycatcher as reported to *The Warbler*, the monthly publication of the Alan Devoe Bird Club:

“Mike Nicosia has documented breeding confirmation for ACADIAN FLYCATCHER near the Alandar Mountain area in Copake Falls. This southern species was first discovered in Columbia County on May 29, 1998, from the observation deck at the Lewis A. Swyer Preserve at Mill Creek in Stuyvesant. The species was not observed in Columbia County again until 2011, after that not again until 2018 but has been found here every year since 2018. Alandar Mountain is not far from the possible breeding site in northeastern Dutchess County during the 2000-05 Atlas project, but Mike’s is the first Atlas record for Columbia County. Acadian Flycatchers like to breed in hemlock forests and Copake Falls has a considerable and apparently acceptable amount of that habitat.”

Some June-July observations of singing Olive-sided Flycatchers in the vicinity of Amy’s Park, north of Bolton in Warren County, suggest that breeding birds of that species may be present in the area. The habitat there certainly seems appropriate.

A Snowy Owl was present through at least the middle of June at a large farm property in East Worcester, Schoharie County. It appeared to be vigorous and in good health from observer reports. Along the Mohawk River (Erie Canal) in the Canajoharie, Schoharie County area, an American White Pelican spent a few days exploring the water at the end of August. There was also a report of two American White Pelicans seen at a pond in Copake, Columbia County on 11 June. Two adult Sandhill Cranes with two colts alongside were observed in a farm field adjacent to an isolated vly near Broadalbin, Fulton County for several weeks in July, apparently a local breeding success for the species. A flock of ten Black Terns was observed at Nassau Lake in Rensselaer County on 23 August, knocked down by rainy weather but continuing to feed after the precipitation ended.

Shorebird season was one of the poorest in recent memory as water levels remained well above normal for most of July and August, depriving this already mudflat-challenged Region of many of the available stopover sites used by southbound migrants. The middle two weeks in August had a few good days, and

Cohoes Flats (Albany County) and vicinity produced Black-bellied Plover, Dunlin, and Short-billed Dowitchers. A Sanderling was discovered foraging in the muddy edge at Stillwater Riverfront Park, Saratoga County, by the ‘Thursday Morning Group’ on 26 August. Two persons aboard separate boats reported a Red-necked Phalarope on Lake George, Warren County on 24 August, about an hour (and eight miles) apart, so it is unclear if this was the same bird or two.

Wading birds were certainly present in good diversity and higher than usual numbers this summer. In addition to the previously mentioned Roseate Spoonbill and Wood Stork, Little Blue Heron was reported at Champlain Canal Lock 2 (Saratoga County) from 9-28 August, as well as at Watervliet Reservoir (Albany County) on 10 August, and Staats Island Road in Schodack, Rensselaer County on 24 August. Black-crowned Night-Herons (migrants) were reported at Champlain Canal Lock 2 and Cohoes Flats on 18 August. Twenty-one Great Egrets were present at Wrights Loop in Saratoga County on 18-19 August.

Hooded Warbler was observed at Bozenkill Preserve near Altamont, Albany County on 29 June, apparently a new location for that species. Cerulean Warbler continues to hang on at Schodack Island State Park in Rensselaer County, with a few observations throughout June. There were two breeding season reports of Nashville Warbler, one from the boggy wetlands of northwestern Fulton County in the southernmost portion of the Adirondack State Park, the other from Dyken Pond on the Rensselaer Plateau.

There was one breeding season observation of Horned Lark, at the Schenectady County Airport on 20 June. Grasshopper Sparrow seemed to fairly flourish this summer, with multiple reports from a variety of shortgrass habitats in eight different counties throughout the Region. Clay-colored Sparrow continue their breeding season presence in the Washington County grasslands and near Hessville in Montgomery County. Saratoga County Airport in Milton and Schenectady County Airport in Glenville both continue to host Vesper Sparrow, but there were a few new locations reporting the species, primarily in Montgomery, Saratoga, and Columbia Counties.

209 species were reported during the period.

CONTRIBUTORS

Larry Alden, Susan Beaudoin, Mike Birmingham, Nancy Castillo, Gary Chapin, Glen & Malinda Chapman, Steve Chorvas, Jeremy Collison, Bill Cook, Brianna Denoncour, Alan Devoe Bird Club recent sightings, Amanda Dillon, David DiSiena, Craig Driggs, Bruce Dudek, Alan Dupuis, Lindsey Duval, Scott Fackenthall, Larry Federman, Debra Ferguson, Mark Fitzsimmons, Rich Guthrie, HMBirds Yahoo Group, Larry & Barbara Hall, David Halm, David Harrison, Ron Harrower, Laura Heil, John Hershey, John Kent, Nancy Kern, Bill Lee, Naomi Lloyd, Tristan Lowery, Larry Main, Alan Mapes, Leigh McBride, Thom McClenahan, Steve Mesick, Joyce Miller, Frank Mitchell, Frank Murphy, Jenny Murtaugh, Ellen Pemrick, Will Raup, Gregg Recer & Cathy Graichen, Neal Reilly, Stacy Robinson, John Roosenberg, Jeanette Roundy, Kathy Schneider, Zach Schwartz-Weinstein, John Shea, Marian Sole, George Steele, Larry Steele, Scott Stoner, Craig Thompson, Alison Van Keuren, Rich White, Tom & Colleen Williams, Will Yandik, Robert Yunick.

ABBREVIATIONS

APBP – Albany Pine Bush Pres, ALBA; **AR** – Alcove Res, ALBA; **BCM** – Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; **BCR** – Basic Creek Res, ALBA; **BMB** – Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail, SARA; **CCGP** – Cocksackie Creek Grasslands Pres, GREE; **CF** – Cohoes Flats, ALBA; **CL** – Collins L, SCHE; **CRM** – Cline Rd. Marsh, FULT; **FR** – Five Rivers EEC, ALBA; **FtEG** – Ft. Edward Grasslands, WASH; **FV** – Franklinton Vlaie, SCHO; **HP** – Huyck Pres, ALBA; **OCA** – Ooms Conservation Area, COLU; **PRWMA** – Partridge Run WMA, ALBA; **SNHP** – Saratoga National Historical P, SARA; **TR** – Tomhannock Res, RENN; **VFNHP** – Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Pres, SARA; **WMP** – Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary, COLU.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Snow Goose: Yankee Hill Lock MONT 6 Jul, only report.

Canada Goose: max 215 Bethlehem ALBA 6 Jun.

Mute Swan: max 6 Coeymans Landing ALBA 19 Jul.

Wood Duck: max 68 BCR 14 Aug.

Blue-winged Teal: max 12 CF 17 Aug.

Northern Shoveler: 2 Huyck Pres ALBA 8 Aug; 2 Queensbury WARR 27 Aug.

American Wigeon: Stanton Pd ALBA 24 Aug, only report.

Mallard: max 189 The Crossings ALBA 24 Aug.

American Black Duck: max 50 The Crossings ALBA 9 Aug.

Green-winged Teal: max 11 BMB 27 Aug.

Ring-necked Duck: max 13 Hour Pd WARR 10 Jul.

Hooded Merganser: 30 Surrender March Trail SARA 6 Jun; 11 Valatie COLU 4 Jun; 9 Jabe Pd WARR 10 Jun; 8 VFNHP 15 Jun.

Common Merganser: max 35 Nassau L RENS 1 Jun.

Red-breasted Merganser: Stratford FULT 24 Jul, only report.

Ruddy Duck: BCR 4 Jul; still present (presumably same bird) 25 Aug, only report.

Ring-necked Pheasant: max 2 Broadalbin FULT 5 Jul.

Ruffed Grouse: max 6 Hague WARR 31 Aug.

Wild Turkey: max 26 Putnam WASH 26 Jun.

Pied-billed Grebe: 5 Stratford FULT 5 Jul; 2 Little York Rd Wetland SCHO 6 Jun; Catskill View Pres COLU 23 Jul; VFNHP 26 Jul.

Rock Pigeon: max 150 Hoosick RENS 24 Aug.

Mourning Dove: max 55 Argyle WASH 26 Jun.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: max 4 Warren County Bikeway, Queensbury WARR 4 Jun; 4 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 8 Jun.

Black-billed Cuckoo: max 4 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 10 Jun.

Common Nighthawk: max 206 Ghent COLU 18 Aug.

Eastern Whip-poor-will: 4 Coeymans Hollow ALBA 17 Jun.

Chimney Swift: max 200 Catskill GREE 22 Aug.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 8 Poestenkill RENS 23 Jul.

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Virginia Rail: max 7 Drowned Lands Swamp Cons Area COLU 13 Jun.

Sora: Drowned Lands Swamp Cons Area COLU 13 Jun; Carlisle SCHO 17 Jun; Argyle WASH 26 Jun; VFNHP 13 Jul.

Common Gallinule: max 9 Carlisle SCHO 20 Jul.

American Coot: 3 Round L SARA 22 Aug; VFNHP 21 Aug.

Sandhill Crane: 4 Broadalbin FULT 3-20 Jul; 4 Charlton SARA 25 Aug, likely same birds previously reported in Fulton County.

Black-bellied Plover: CF 9-10 Aug; CF 17 Aug.

Semipalmated Plover: max 6 CF 17 Aug.

Killdeer: max 27 Schenectady Co Arpt SCH 27 Jul.

Sanderling: Stillwater Riverfront P SARA 26 Aug.

Dunlin: 8 CF 14 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: max 20 Stillwater Riverfront P SARA 26 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: 3 Stillwater Riverfront P SARA 25 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 13 Stillwater Riverfront P SARA 25 Aug.
Short-billed Dowitcher: max 2 CF 17 Aug.
American Woodcock: max 3 Grafton RENS 1 Jul.
Wilson's Snipe: max 5 Ft Plain MONT 23 Jun.
Spotted Sandpiper: max 7 Normanskill Farm ALBA 1 Jun; 7 Stockport Flats COLU 20 Jul.
Solitary Sandpiper: max 10 Wrights Loop SARA 13 Aug.
Lesser Yellowlegs: max 12 Stillwater Riverfront P SARA 13 Aug.
Greater Yellowlegs: max 4 Wrights Loop SARA 13 Aug.
Red-necked Phalarope: L George WARR 24 Aug.
Bonaparte's Gull: Saratoga L SARA 1 Jun; Gull Bay WASH 23 Aug; L George WARR 24 Aug.
Ring-billed Gull: max 750 CF 24 Jul.
Herring Gull: max 51 Crescent Power Plant ALBA 13 Jul.
Lesser Black-backed Gull: CF 10 Aug.
Great Black-backed Gull: max 5 L George WARR 24 Jun.
Caspian Tern: max 11 Henry Hudson P ALBA 8 Aug; 11 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 20 Aug.
Black Tern: max 10 Nassau L RENS 23 Aug.

LOONS – PARAKEET

Common Loon: max 13 Garnet L WARR 11 Jul.
WOOD STORK: German Church Rd, Ghent COLU 4-7 Aug, *NYSARC*, *intro* (LS).
Double-crested Cormorant: max 100 TR 2 Jul.
American White Pelican: 2 Center Hill Rd pd, Copake COLU 11 Jun; Mohawk River btwn Amsterdam and Canajoharie MONT 28-30 Aug.
American Bittern: max 2 Knox Wetland ALBA 12 Jun.
Least Bittern: 3 Knox Wetland ALBA 28 Jun, incl juv; 3 Clemons Marsh WASH 26 Jul; 2 VFNHP 26 Jul; 2 Argyle WASH 26 Jun.
Great Blue Heron: max 21 Ancram (heronry) COLU 4 Jul.
Great Egret: max 21 Wrights Loop SARA 12 Aug.
Little Blue Heron: 2 Champlain Canal lock 2 SARA 9-30 Aug; Watervliet Res ALBA 10 Aug; Scodack RENS 24 Aug.
Green Heron: max 7 VFNHP 31 Aug.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 5 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 15 Aug; Ghent COLU 3 Jun; CF 18 Aug, juv; Champlain Canal Lock 2 SARA 18 Aug.
ROSEATE SPOONBILL: New Swamp Rd WASH 24 Jul, photographed, *NYSARC*, *intro* (LH).
Black Vulture: max 18 Stanton Pd ALBA 25 Jul.
Turkey Vulture: max 73 Copake COLU 25 Aug.
Osprey: max 4 mult loc.
Northern Harrier: max 3 Sprakers MONT 19 Aug.
Sharp-shinned Hawk: max 2 mult loc.
Cooper's Hawk: max 4 mult loc.
Bald Eagle: max 8 Cheviot P COLU 26 JUL.
Red-shouldered Hawk: max 3 Nassau L COLU 10 Aug.
Broad-winged Hawk: max 20 Greenport Cons Area COLU 31 Aug.
Red-tailed Hawk: max 4 mult loc.
Eastern Screech-Owl: max 3 Niskayuna SCHE 1 Jul.
Great Horned Owl: max 2 mult loc.
Snowy Owl: East Worcester SCHO 3-28 Jun.
Barred Owl: max 4 Kinns Rd P SARA 9 Jun.
Northern Saw-whet Owl: Gloversville FULT 27 Jun; E Nassau RENS 9 Jul; Jackson WASH 15 Jul; Mayfield FULT 24 Jul.
Belted Kingfisher: max 4 mult loc.
Red-headed Woodpecker: Athens GREE 24 Jul, only report.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 6 mult loc.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: max 15 Altamont ALBA, 4 nests with juv.
Downy Woodpecker: max 7 mult loc.
Hairy Woodpecker: max 4 mult loc.
Northern Flicker: max 9 APBP 18 Jul.
Pileated Woodpecker: max 5 Nassau L RENS 25 Aug.
American Kestrel: max 12 Sprakers MONT 3 Aug.
Merlin: max 5 Washington P ALBA 5 Jul.
Peregrine Falcon: max 5 Hudson COLU 26 Jul.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: max 9 SNHP 1 Jun.
Eastern Kingbird: max 9 mult loc.
Olive-sided Flycatcher: breeding season reports from six locations in Warren County.
Eastern Wood-Pewee: max 13 Mildred Denton Sanc SARA 9 Jun.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 3 Plateau Mt GREE 5 Jun.

Acadian Flycatcher: Rensselaerville SF ALBA 8 Jun; 4 Taconic SP COLU 6 Jul, only reports.

Alder Flycatcher: max 5 mult loc.

Willow Flycatcher: max 12 Argyle WASH 26 Jun.

Least Flycatcher: max 7 Boice Family P SARA 19 Jun.

Eastern Phoebe: max 9 mult loc.

Yellow-throated Vireo: max 8 SNHP 24 Jun.

Blue-headed Vireo: max 7 Moreau L SP SARA 22 Jun.

Philadelphia Vireo: max 2 Schaghticoke RENS 28 Aug; 2 Greenport Cons Area COLU 31 Aug.

Warbling Vireo: max 14 VFNHP 2 Jun.

Red-eyed Vireo: max 64 Rens Forest Tr, Petersburg RENS 6 Jun.

Blue Jay: max 40 Niskayuna SCHE 29 Aug.

American Crow: max 250 Troy RENS 21 Aug.

Fish Crow: max 40 Coxsackie GREE 4 Aug.

Common Raven: max 10 Stony Creek WARR 4 Jul.

Horned Lark: max 2 Schenectady Co Arpt SCHE 20 Jun.

Purple Martin: max 38 Saratoga L SARA 2 Jun.

Tree Swallow: max 2300 Ghent COLU 18 Aug.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: max 50 Round L SARA 6 Jul.

Bank Swallow: max 50 Kinderhook gravel pit COLU 12 Jun.

Cliff Swallow: max 18 Alcove Res spillway ALBA 10 Jun.

Barn Swallow: max 75 Canajoharie MONT 14 Aug.

Black-capped Chickadee: max 18 SNHP 1 Jun.

Tufted Titmouse: max 14 Boice Family P SARA 19 Jun.

Red-breasted Nuthatch: max 13 Hague WARR 4 Aug.

White-breasted Nuthatch: max 8 Hemlock Trail SARA 30 Jul.

Brown Creeper: max 5 mult loc.

House Wren: max 19, incl 13 nestlings Schodack RENS 9 Jun.

Winter Wren: max 14 Plateau Mt GREE 19 Jun.

Sedge Wren: Argyle WASH 26 Jun, only report.

Marsh Wren: max 24 Clemons Marsh WASH 26 Jul.

Carolina Wren: max 8 Loughberry L SARA 11 Jul.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: max 10 BMB 4 Jul.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: max 10 Plateau Mt GREE 5 Jun.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: last Elka P GREE 1 Jun; first Ephratah FULT 21 Aug.

Eastern Bluebird: max 22 Prattsville GREE 2 Aug.

Veery: max 22 Boice Family P SARA 19 Jun.

Bicknell's Thrush: Plateau Mt GREE 5 Jun; Hunter Mt GREE 4 Jul.

Swainson's Thrush: max 13 West Kill Mt GREE 7 Jul.

Hermit Thrush: max 28 Cat & Thomas Mt Pres WARR 24 Jul.

Wood Thrush: max 14 Hunter Mt GREE 3 Jul.

American Robin: max 170 Niskayuna SCHE 4 Aug.

Gray Catbird: max 55 VFNHP 11 Jun.

Brown Thrasher: max 7 Cambridge WASH 20 Jun.

Northern Mockingbird: max 11 Stuyvesant COLU 20 Aug.

European Starling: max 1000 Hoosick RENS 28 Aug.

Cedar Waxwing: max 65 BMB 28 Aug.

House Sparrow: max 60 W Capitol P ALBA 14 Aug.

Evening Grosbeak: max 2 Bolton WARR 12 Jun.

House Finch: max 60 Alb Int Arpt ALBA 12 Jul.

Purple Finch: max 27 Corinth SARA 10 Jul.

Red Crossbill: max 6 Saratoga Springs SARA 27 Aug.

Pine Siskin: individuals in a few loc.

American Goldfinch: max 55 Ghent COLU 24 Aug.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: max 38 SNHP 1 Aug.

Chipping Sparrow: max 37 Wilton SARA 29 Aug.

Clay-colored Sparrow: 4 Minden MONT 8 Jul; FtEG 20 Jun.

Field Sparrow: max 18 SNHP 24 Jul.

Vesper Sparrow: 2 Stone Arabia MONT 15 Jun; 2 Saratoga Co Arpt SARA 15 Jun.

Savannah Sparrow: max 17 OCA 15 Jul.

Grasshopper Sparrow: 4 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 18 Jun; 3 Schenectady Co Arpt

SCHE 20 Jun; 2 Minden MONT 2 Jun;
 Queensbury WARR 4 Jun; FtEG 6 Jun; Stone
 Arabia MONT 11 Jun; Albany Int Arpt ALBA
 13 Jun; Saratoga Co Arpt SARA 15 Jun;
 Carlisle SCHO 18 Jun; Knox ALBA 19 Jun;
 SNHP 24 Jun; Hartford WASH 6 Jul; Ancram
 COLU 9 Jul; Stuyvesant COLU 20 Aug.
Song Sparrow: max 45 VFNHP 11 Jun.
Swamp Sparrow: max 20 Drowned Lands
 Swamp Cons Area COLU 14 Jul.
White-throated Sparrow: max 7 Edinburg
 SARA 5 Jun.
Dark-eyed Junco: max 14 Berlin RENS 20
 Jun.
Yellow-breasted Chat: SNHP 1 Jun;
 Whitehall WASH 16 Jun, photos and audio rec.
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (R8):
 Carlisle SCHO 8 Jun, *intro*.
Bobolink: max 170 FtEG 13 Aug.
Eastern Meadowlark: max 8 Canajoharie
 MONT 29 Jul.
Orchard Oriole: max 7 APBP 1 Jun.
Baltimore Oriole: max 21 Grafton RENS 8
 Jun.
Red-winged Blackbird: max 400 Schoharie
 Crossing Boat Launch MONT 24 Aug.
Brown-headed Cowbird: max 85 Malta
 SARA 22 Aug.
Common Grackle: max 205 New Baltimore
 GREE 16 Aug.
Ovenbird: max 40 Petersburg RENS 6 Jun.
Worm-eating Warbler: max 5 Deer Mt
 Nature Trail ALBA 8 Jun; 5 Fox Hill COLU
 24 Jun.
Louisiana Waterthrush: max 4 Overmountain
 Cons Area COLU 11 Jun.
Northern Waterthrush: max 2 mult loc.
Golden-winged Warbler: Whitehall WASH
 16 Jun-11 Jul, only report.
Blue-winged Warbler: max 13 SNHP 1 Jun.
“Brewster’s” Warbler: Whitehall WASH 17
 Jun.
“Lawrence’s” Warbler: Putnam WASH 17
 Jun.
Black-and-white Warbler: max 8 SNHP 7
 Jun.
PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (R8):
 Surrender March Trail SARA 6-23 Jun, *intro*.
Tennessee Warbler: first Bob & Betty
 Cummings Mem P WASH 17 Aug; max 2
 Hague WARR 30 Aug.

Nashville Warbler: max 2 Amy’s P WARR
 16 Jun; 2 Dyken Pd RENS 26 Jun.
Mourning Warbler: max 3 Hunter GREE 25
 Jun.
Common Yellowthroat: max 51 SNHP 1 Jul.
Hooded Warbler: 2 Fox Hill COLU 20 Jun; 2
 Overmountain Cons Area COLU 31 Jul;
 Rensselaerville SF ALBA 9 Jun; Bozenkill
 Pres ALBA 29 Jun.
American Redstart: max 50 Papscahee I NP
 RENS 1 Jun.
Cape May Warbler: first 2 Burnt Hills SARA
 20 Aug; max 4 Ballston SARA 29 Aug.
Cerulean Warbler: 2 Overmountain Cons
 Area COLU 6 Jun; 2 Schodack I SP RENS 21
 Jun; 2 Taconic SP COLU 5 Jul; Copake COLU
 14 Jun; Fox Hill COLU 20 Jun;
Northern Parula: max 3 Johnsburg WARR 10
 Jul.
Magnolia Warbler: max 10 West Kill Mt
 GREE 7 Jul.
Bay-breasted Warbler: first mult loc 31 Aug.
Blackburnian Warbler: max 18 West Kill Mt
 GREE 5 Jun.
Yellow Warbler: max 22 Schodack I SP
 RENS 5 Jun.
Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 17 Boice
 Family P SARA 19 Jun.
Blackpoll Warbler: max 14 Plateau Mt GREE
 19 Jun.
Black-throated Blue Warbler: max 12 Hague
 WARR 11 Jul.
Palm Warbler: first Mine Kill SP SCHO 28
 Aug.
Pine Warbler: max 10 Warrensburg WARR
 21 Jun.
Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 10 Plateau Mt
 GREE 5 Jun.
Prairie Warbler: max 9 APBP 1 Jun.
Black-throated Green Warbler: max 13
 West Kill Mt GREE 5 Jun.
Canada Warbler: max 3 Edinburg SARA 5
 Jun; Berlin RENS 11 Jul.
Wilson’s Warbler: first Great Flats NP SCHE
 29 Aug; VFNHP 29 Aug.
Scarlet Tanager: max 6 mult loc.
Northern Cardinal: max 13 mult loc.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 8 Grafton
 RENS 4 Jul.
Indigo Bunting: max 7 APBP 1 Jun; 7 Putnam
 WASH 26 Jun; 7 SNHP 10 Jul

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REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

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The National Weather Service records from Poughkeepsie reported a high temperature of 98° F on 30 June and a low of 43° on 1 June. Temperatures overall averaged 3.4° above normal. Rainfall for the month was 2.75", 1.16" below normal, resulting in a warm, dry month. July started off very wet with thunderstorms and the remnants of Tropical Storm *Elsa*. There was a low of 50° on 31 July and a high of 93° on 6 July. The average was 2.6° below normal. There were 6.06" of rain, 2.28" above normal, resulting in a cool wet month. The Poughkeepsie report indicated a high of 85° on 12 August, with a low of 64° on 3 August. This resulted in an average temperature for the month that was 2° above normal. There was a total of 4.98" of rain in the Region, 1.1" above normal. All of this resulted in a warm, wet month.

On the night of 22 August Tropical Storm *Henri* passed to our east on Long Island. The resulting counterclockwise winds out of the north produced an influx of birds in our Region, mainly along the Hudson River. Caspian Terns were by far the most abundant with Laughing Gulls not far behind. Shorebirds including Sanderlings and Baird's Sandpipers were spotted along the Hudson and in the Black Dirt Region, while Hudsonian Godwits and a Western Sandpiper were seen in Westchester as well.

The New York State Breeding Bird Atlas, now in its second year, is documenting some very interesting breeding species in the Region, Dickcissel and Sedge Wren among them.

On 9 June Kyle Bardwell photographed a Brant on the Hudson flying in from the north with a GPS device attached to its back.

The Sandhill Cranes that bred earlier this year have finally succeeded in raising a colt. They nested once again on the New Jersey side of the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge and were seen with their well-grown offspring through 16 June, moving back and forth between the two states but disappeared for some time after that, only to be seen again on 10 July with the now nearly full-grown colt! Typical of this pair, once the chick was fledged, they spent much of their time at the Pine Island Turf Nursery.

On 11 August Kyle Bardwell was surprised to find a near breeding-plumaged American Avocet on the jetty at the Beacon Waterfront. This cooperative bird remained throughout the morning and was seen by birders from all around the Region.

On 11 August, Jim Yates spotted an adult **Brown Booby** roosting on the Water Chestnut piles in the Hudson River off Esopus Meadows Lighthouse Park. He got many photos of the bird before it was flushed by passing kayakers. This is the third summer in a row that a Brown Booby has been recorded in Region 9.

On 17 July Kyle Knapp saw a Little Blue Heron flying over the Wallkill River NWR. Subsequently, on 22 July, Ronnie DiLorenzo spotted a Little Blue Heron at Six and a Half Station Road in Orange County. The bird moved back and forth between there and the Citgo Pond across the Heritage Trail and continued the following day. Numerous reports came from around the Region shortly thereafter. As far as is known, only one Yellow-crowned Night-Heron returned to Van Burenville Road in Orange County this year. The bird was reported for two weeks in mid June, but not thereafter (see note pp. 333-334). On 13 June Ari Weiss spotted a Glossy Ibis feeding on the baseball field at Piermont Pier. This was the third record for Rockland County, all from that location, until a juvenile showed up at Rockland Lake State Park on 15 July. This individual was very confiding and seen by many.

The northeast experienced an unprecedented incursion of **Roseate Spoonbills** during late June and July. Linda Scrima photographed one flying over the platform at the Wallkill River NWR on 14 July, but it was not seen there again. A second was reported in Wappingers Falls, Dutchess County on 21 July, and may have been the same bird. Though on private property, the landowner allowed limited access so the bird could be viewed. Though it took off early the morning of 23 July, it returned the following day, to the delight of many, and was present through 28 July. The homeowner verified the bird had been present since 18 July.

On 16 June Xander Vitarelli reported a pair of Sedge Wrens believed to be breeding on private property in Ulster County. The birds were seen repeatedly, photographed, and recorded. On 23 July, Debra DeFrancisco found a Sedge Wren on Lower Wisner Road in Warwick, Orange County. It turned out there was a colony breeding there, numbering perhaps as many as ten birds. They could be easily heard and seen, continuing through the period.

On 9 June there was an influx of Dickcissels in the Hudson Valley. A single bird at the Shawangunk Grasslands NWR was the first there in several years, but three singing males at Croton Point Park that same day were quite unexpected. Eventually four males at Croton Point were verified and a female joined the group in early July. Three females were eventually documented, and breeding was confirmed with at least three fledglings photographed.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

AP – Apollo Plaza, SULL; **BCF** – Blue Chip Farm, ULST; **BFAS** – Buttercup Farm Audubon Sanctuary, DUTC; **BMSF** – Bear Mountain SP, ROCK; **BP** – Browns Pd, ORAN; **BSWMA** – Bashakill State WMA, SULL; **CFSP** – Clarence Fahnestock SP, PUTN; **CIOES** – Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, DUTC; **CMACS** – Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary, PUTN; **CPP** – Croton Pt P, WEST; **CRS** – Croton Railroad Station, WEST; **DHCLP** – D and H Canal Linear P, SULL; **DR** – Doodletown Rd, ROCK; **DRT** – Dutchess Rail Trail, DUTC; **EGR** – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, WEST; **EMLP** – Esopus Meadows Lighthouse P, ULST; **FPNC** – Forsythe P and Nature Center, ULST; **GL** – Glenmere L, ORAN; **GMP** – Glasco Mini P, ULST; **GV** – Great Vly WMA, ULST; **HS** – Harcourt Sanctuary, ULST; **HVRT** – Harlem Valley Rail Trail, DUTC; **I** – Iona I, ROCK; **KL** – Kiamesha L, SULL; **KP** – Kingston Pt, ULST; **LGC** – Laurel Grove Cemetery, ORAN; **LM** – Liberty Marsh, ORAN; **LNP** – Lenoir Nature Pres, WEST; **LR** – Larchmont Res, WEST; **MC** – Marshlands Conservancy, WEST; **MF** – Muscoot Farm, WEST; **MP** – Morningside P, SULL; **MPHW** – Mount Peter Hawk Watch, ORAN; **NCR** – New Croton Res, WEST; **NR** – Neversink Res, SULL; **NW** – Newburgh Waterfront, ORAN; **OCBDR** – Orange County Black Dirt Region, ORAN; **OINP** – Oscawana I Nature Pres, WEST; **OMRLMSP** – Ogden Mills and Ruth Livingston Mills SP, DUTC; **PHP** – Peach Hill P, DUTC; **PITN** – Pine Island Turf Nursery, ORAN; **PP** – Piermont Pier, ROCK; **RL** – Rhinecliff Landing, DUTC; **RLSP** – Rockland L SP, ROCK; **RNC** – Rye Nature Center, WEST; **RR** – Rondout Res, SULL; **RSP** – Rockefeller SP, WEST; **SFSP** – Sterling Forest SP, ORAN; **SGNWR** – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR, ULST; **SHSR** – Six and a Half Station Road, ORAN; **SS** – Sleightsburg Spit, ULST; **SSF** – Stewart State Forest, ORAN; **TBWMA** – Tivoli Bays WMA, DUTC; **THMUA** – Taconic-Hereford Multiple Use Area, DUTC; **WL** – Wickham L, ORAN; **WRNWR** – Wallkill River NWR, ORAN.

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

Brant: Long Dock P DUTC 9 Jun (KB).
Blue-winged Teal: max 2 BSWMA 8-14 Jun (JCa, KM, JH).
Gadwall: 2 SHSR 25 Aug (BT, JCi); 2 MC 28 Aug (SW).
Green-winged Teal: max 4 WRNWR 3-31 Aug (MZ, JCi, mob); max 9 Strever Farm DUTC 13-31 Aug (DK, BM, mob); MP 12-17 Aug (JH); SHSR 25 Aug (JCi, BT).
Ring-necked Duck: Hillview Res WEST 24 Aug (SCam).
Long-tailed Duck: Rye Town P WEST 3-20 Jun (SCam, GB).

Bufflehead: Annsville Creek WEST 12-17 Jun (SL); RR 2 Jul-31 Aug (JH, SB).
Red-breasted Merganser: max 3 EGR 10-25 Jun (GB, mob).
Ruddy Duck: Hillview Res 19-21 Jul (SCam, JAm).
Ruffed Grouse: Minnewaska SP ULST 10 Aug (SB); 2 Hartwood SULL 15 Aug (VB); Sparrowbush ORAN 15 Aug (KA).
Pied-billed Grebe: max 6 WRNWR 1 Jun-4 Aug (KK, mob); max 6 SHSR 1 Jun-22 Jul (KA, mob).

Black-billed Cuckoo: PHP 9-19 May (MR, mob); max 2 SFSP 9 May-13 Jun (FP, KMi mob); BSWMA 11-17 Jun (DD).

Common Nighthawk: BSWMA 18 Aug (PD); 100 Warwarsing ULST 21 Aug (JT); 12 Unionville ORAN 23 Aug (LS); 37 Wallkill ULST 24 Aug (CM).

Eastern Whip-poor-will: 2 Mine Rd ORAN 12 Aug (BT); SFSP 27 Aug (EF, TF).

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Clapper Rail: max 5 MC 1 Jun -31 Aug (GB, mob).

Virginia Rail: max 6 BSWMA 1 Jun-31 Aug (SB, mob); 2 WRNWR 20 Jul (KK); max 6 GV 1 Jun-27 Aug (PS, mob); max 5 Gibson Hill Rd ORAN 1 Jun-14 Jul (JS).

Sora: 2 WRNWR 1 Jun (YH); BSWMA 11 Jun (SB); BSWMA 3 Aug (JH).

Sandhill Crane: 3 WRNWR 1 Jun -10 Jul (YH, mob); 2 EMLP 30 Jun (JY); 2 Kallop Rd ULST 4 Jul (JMa); 8 Ashokan Res 9 Jul (AMe); 3 PITN 1 Aug (TB, GB), *intro*.

American Avocet: Beacon Waterfront DUTC 11 Aug (KB, mob), *intro*.

American Oystercatcher: max 5 MC 1 Jun-31 Aug (AS, mob); max 3 EGR 28 Jun-31 Aug (GB, mob).

Black-bellied Plover: 10 OCBDR 1 Jun (YH); 5 MC 1 Jun (SCam).

Semipalmated Plover: 2 Lake Tappan ROCK 29 Jun (NB); The Landing Dobbs Ferry WEST 22 Jul (JAm); max 29 MC 31 Jul-3 Aug (GB); max 15 PP 2-4 Aug (AWei); MP 4 Aug (JH); WRNWR 4 Aug (BN, KMi).

Upland Sandpiper: 3 OCBDR 8 Aug (MZ).

Whimbrel: 2 EGR 15 Aug (JW); PP 23 Aug (AWei).

Hudsonian Godwit: 2 EGR 23 Aug (GB, TB), *intro*.

Ruddy Turnstone: PP 3 Jun (JFC); PP 23 Aug (AWei).

Stilt Sandpiper: WRNWR 28 Aug (JCa, JCi).

Sanderling: Beacon Waterfront 8 Aug (KB, mob); max 3 OCBDR 23 Aug (BN); PP 23 Aug (AWei).

Dunlin: 2 OCBDR 1 Jun (YH).

Baird's Sandpiper: PP 15 Aug (ME, BT); max 3 OCBDR 23 Aug (BN); Glynwood Farms PUTN 26 Aug (KB, mob); PITN 25-28 Aug (BN); AP 29 Aug (JH).

Least Sandpiper: 4 AP 13-24 Jul (JH, mob); PP 14-16 Jul (AWei, CW); WRNWR 15 Jul (LS).

White-rumped Sandpiper: MC 31 Jul (TB, GB); PP 11 Aug (AWei); OCBDR 20 Aug (FP); MC 30 Aug (AK).

Pectoral Sandpiper: max 3 Camel Farm ORAN 1-4 Aug (GB, TB); max 2 WRNWR 4-20 Aug (KA); Strever Farm 4-23 Aug (DvZ); EMLP 6 Aug (DW, JS); PP 11 Aug (AWei); MC 25 Aug (TB).

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Haverstraw ROCK 19 Jul (CW); max 8 PP 19 Jul-4 Aug (AWei); max 36 MC 31 Jul-4 Aug (GB).

Western Sandpiper: Milton Pt Rye WEST 22 Aug (JMc); 2 MC 30 Aug (SCam).

Greater Yellowlegs: max 4 MC 4-14 Jul (GB).

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 4 MC 2-3 Aug (GB, SR); max 12 WRNWR 3-31 Aug (YH, mob).

Willet: max 10 MC 1 Jun-31 Aug (KMcG, mob).

Short-billed Dowitcher: PP 14 Jul (LPI); Kendridge Farm ORAN 5 Aug (YH); max 3 MC 20-31 Aug (GB, mob); Rt 300 Pd ORAN 20-22 Aug (BN); max 11 Milton Pt Rye 22 Aug (JMc, GB); 3 OCBDR 23 Aug (BN); 3 MP 29 Aug (JH, SB).

Solitary Sandpiper: 2 Wappingers Creek DUTC 30 Jun (SCar); RR 5 Jul (RCR); 2 AP 15 Jul (SB).

Bonaparte's Gull: NW 23 Jul (BN); 2 Beacon Waterfront 7 Aug (CP, mob); Fleischmann's Pier P WEST 22 Aug (SR); PP 21 Aug (LPI, CW); MacEachron Waterfront P WEST 23 Aug (AS).

Laughing Gull: max 22 Harbor Square P WEST 11 Aug (LT); max 3 PP 23-28 Aug (AWei, mob); Charles Pt Marina WEST 23 Aug (SL); CRS 23 Aug (KL); Sand Dock Rd Trail DUTC 31 Aug (CC).

Lesser Black-backed Gull: PP 23 Aug (AWei).

Least Tern: max 3 MC 2 Jun-15 Jul (SCam, mob); max 2 EGR 2 Jun-7 Jul (JH, GB).

Caspian Tern: CPP 7 Jun (KL); CPP 24 Jun (SR, mob); Hudson Highlands SP PUTN 14 Jul (KB); Long Dock P 21 Jul (KB); 2 Kingston ULST 6, 21 Aug (FM, PS); Beacon Waterfront 8 Aug (KB); Gibson Hill Rd 8-9 Aug (JS); max 8 Plum Pt ORAN 13-15 Aug (BN, mob); max 2 CPP 16-19 Aug (GB, mob); max 17 Hudson River WEST 23 Aug (JAm, mob); 4 EGR 23 Aug (GB, TB); 4 PP 23 Aug (AWei), *intro*.

Black Tern: 2 Beacon Waterfront 8 Aug (KB, SCam); MacEachron Waterfront P 22 Aug (JAm); Hyde P Station DUTC 23 Aug (DC).

Common Tern: max 10 EGR 1 Jun-31 Aug (GB, mob); max 25 MC 1 Jun-22 Jul (GB, mob).

Forster's Tern: max 5 MC 1 Jun-31 Aug (SCam, mob).

LOONS – PARAKEET

Common Loon: PP 18 Jun (CC, LPi); Croton L WEST 25 Jun (CR); NR 26 Jun (PD); PP 15 Jul (AWei, SCam); max 3 AR 11, 20 Aug (CA).

BROWN BOOBY: EMLP 11 Aug (JY), *intro*.
American Bittern: BSWMA 11 Jul (JH); SFSP 14 Jul (EG).

Least Bittern: max 4 GV 1 Jun-23 Jul (RM, PS); max 5 WRNWR 3 Jun-20 Jul (FP, mob); BSWMA 5 Jun, 18 Jul (JH, SB); PP 16 Jun-17 Jul (AWei, mob); Goshen ORAN 29 Jun-23 Jul (MZ); KP 16-24 Jul (FM); Orange Swamp ORAN 17 Jul (BN).

Great Egret: max 30 WRNWR 1 Jun -31 Aug (MZ, mob); McDonald Rd SULL 2-9 Jun (JH); Montgomery ORAN 3-5 Jun (Jci, KMi); Long Dock P 9 Jun (CP); max 10 SHSR 7 Jul-8 Aug (JD, mob). Widespread.

Little Blue Heron: WRNWR 17 Jul (KK); MC 20-22 Jul (SCam, mob); SHSR 22-23 Jul (RDi, mob); Wappingers Creek 28-30 Jul (DvZ, mob); Haverstraw Bay County P ROCK 28 Jul (AWei); Five Islands P WEST 29 Jul (RW); Cortland Manor WEST 30 Jul (DvZ); WRNWR 3-21 Aug (LS, mob); Kingston Res #1 ULST 3-31 Aug (PS, mob); Orangetown ROCK 17 Aug (AWei), *intro*.

Green Heron: 12 Dutchess P L DUTC 10 Jul (LF).

Snowy Egret: Millwood WEST 2 Jul (JAm); Stony Pt ROCK 7 Jul (MR); Lake Carmel PUTN 21-22 Jul (AMa); WRNWR 3-8 Aug (MZ).

Cattle Egret: RLSP 1-6 Jun (CW, mob).

Black-crowned Night-heron: 3 Congers L P ROCK 20 Jun (CC); CPP 16 Jun (LT); Greenwood L ORAN 4 Jul (LPa); SFSP 14 Jul (EG); max 3 Harbor Square P 15-27 Jul (LT); Tilly Foster Rd PUTN 28 Jul (SR).

Yellow-crowned Night-heron: Van Burenville Rd ORAN 3-16 Jun (JD).

Glossy Ibis: 2 EMLP 14 Jul (DT); RLSP 15-16 Jul (AWel, mob), *intro*.

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: WRNWR 14 Jul (LS); Wappingers Falls 18-28 Jul (BMA, mob), *intro*.

Northern Harrier: BSWMA 17-27 Aug (JH, KMi); max 3 OCBDR 15-31 Aug (BN, mob); CPP 23-31 Aug (SR, mob); MC 27 Aug (AS, mob).

Red-headed Woodpecker: RSP 5 Jun-17 Jul (AS, mob).

Merlin: max 2 SGNWR 31 Jul (JD, DS); max 2 MP 4-31 Aug (JH); Camel Farm 12 Aug (BT); Mills-Norrie SP DUTC 30 Aug (SJ).

Peregrine Falcon: BSWMA 3 Aug (JH, mob); Hurley ULST 12 Aug (RH); Mills-Norrie SP 25 Aug (DvZ, SJ).

Monk Parakeet: 10 Titus Mill Pd WEST 18 Aug (PC).

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: BMSP 2 Jun (AMa, mob); Cliffdale Farm WEST 12-21 Aug (SR, mob); RSP 20 Aug (MGr); Goshen 22 Aug (KA); Minnewaska SP 24 Aug (SB, DW).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: max 3 Slide Mt. ULST 5-27 Jun (AWei, mob); Cliffdale Farm 15 Aug (KB, mob); Madam Brett P DUTC 18 Aug (KF, CF, mob).

Philadelphia Vireo: Fishkill Cemetery DUTC 30 Aug (AMa).

Sedge Wren: 2 Hurley 16 Jun-5 Aug (XV, mob); max 10 Lower Wisner Rd ORAN 23 Jul 11 Aug (DD, mob), *intro*.

Bicknell's Thrush: max 6 Slide Mt 2 Jun-24 Jul (BMc, mob).

Swainson's Thrush: Pruyn Sanctuary WEST 30 Aug (MGo).

Pine Siskin: 2 Salt Pt DUTC 28 Jun, 5-14 Jul (BM); Bearville ULST 3 Jul (FW); Salt Pt 4-13 Aug (BM).

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Grasshopper Sparrow: max 10 SGRNWR 1 Jun-15 Aug (KMCD, mob); max 5 CPP: 3 13 Jun (L. O'Hara, M. Bochnik), and 3 (ad and 2 juvs) here 24 Aug, (RL, ph); max 5 NR 11 Jun-2 Jul (SCam, mob).

Lark Sparrow: CPP 31 Jul (JW); Kingston Res #1 20 Aug (PS); CPP 31 Aug (SR, mob).

Orchard Oriole: BSWMA 1 Jun-17 Jul (RDi, mob); max 2 WRNWR 1 Jun-8 Aug (LS, mob); max 3 CPP 1 Jun-23 Aug (AS, mob); 3 Gibson Hill Rd 3 Aug (JS); Vassar Farm and Ecological Pres DUTC 5 Aug (KB).

Tennessee Warbler: Breakneck Ridge Loop PUTN 18 Jul (JMa).

Mourning Warbler: Peekamoose Rd ULST 5 Jul (PS).

Hooded Warbler: BSWMA 30 Aug (SB).

Cape May Warbler: 4 Hillview Res 24 Aug (SCam); Vassar Farm and Ecological Pres 20-21 Aug (KB, mob).

Northern Parula: Oakland Valley Rd SULL 28 Jun (JH); DR 15 Aug (MW); CPP 24 Aug (LT).
Dickcissel: max 7 CPP 9 Jun-29 Aug (PC, SL, mob); SGNWR 9 Jun-18 Jul (KMCD, mob); Hurley Mt Rd ULST 23 Jun (WY); max 2 Glynwood Farm 26-27 Aug (KB, mob), *intro*.

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REGION 10 - MARINE

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June and August 2021 were much warmer than usual across the Region. Average daily temperatures were close to normal in July in both Central Park and in Islip, but this is slightly deceiving because overnight low temperatures rarely if ever dropped below 70° F during the month, which would have been regarded as very unusual in the past. Rainfall was below average in June, especially on Long Island, but it was far above average in both July and August, especially in the western parts of the Region, where Central Park recorded excessive rainfall totals on two dates. Two notable tropical storms affected Region 10: *Elsa* on 9 July and *Henri* on 22 August and later.

	Central Park			Islip		
Temp	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Jun	74.3°	71.4°	+2.9°	70.6°	68.4°	+2.2°
Jul	76.0°	76.5°	-0.5°	74.6°	73.9°	+0.7°
Aug	77.5°	75.2°	+2.3°	75.9°	72.8°	+3.1°

	Central Park			Islip		
Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Jun	2.62"	4.41"	-1.79"	1.60"	4.27"	-2.67"
Jul	11.09"	4.60"	+6.49"	5.12"	3.43"	+1.69"
Aug	10.32"	4.44"	+5.88"	6.63"	3.98"	+2.65"

Many late-spring migrants were reported throughout the Region in early June, especially in the New York City (NYC) parks where northbound migration also tends to be heaviest. Some records of this kind are difficult to distinguish from individuals present for other reasons, such as White-throated Sparrows trapped in urban canyon oases, dispersants/vagrants (e.g., Black-bellied Whistling-Duck and

Evening Grosbeak), and rare/extralimital breeders (e.g., Broad-winged Hawk and Acadian Flycatcher).

White-rumped Sandpipers are among the latest northbound migrants, almost crossing paths with the earliest southbound species, such as Least Sandpiper and Lesser Yellowlegs during mid-late June. Other cases are even more perplexing, including this season's Whimbrel at Plumb Beach, Brooklyn, NYC, on 7 June; Marbled Godwit at Cupsogue on 20 June; and a Stilt Sandpiper at Jamaica Bay 11 June. One of the most baffling bird records we can even recall involved a flock of **12 Common Mergansers** on Staten Island on 23 August; in most of the Region, CBC compilers worry about whether even one will appear in time for the mid December-early January counts.

The occurrence of other summer visitors, including some historically regarded as unusual or rare in New York City and Long Island, is known to be quite regular. Four immature male King Eiders at three sites from Staten Island to Montauk was more than usual in summer, but nevertheless consistent with the species' habit of summering relatively frequently compared to its absolute scarcity in winter, its "normal" period of occurrence. In contrast, Red-throated Loon and Horned Grebe were unreported this summer.

The status of Lesser Black-backed Gull, very rare just a few decades ago, continues to change rapidly. Summering flocks of first- and second-summer Lessers now outnumber Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls at times along outer beaches of Suffolk County, with single-site counts over 100 now routine at Robert Moses State Park and Smith Point County Park. Even so, the species is rarely photographed in summer just a few miles away on the Long Island mainland and can be scarce even on the outer beaches during periods of fine weather, when they are thought to feed offshore. A Glaucous Gull photographed at Nickerson Beach, Nassau County on 15 June was a notable seasonal rarity, but one with surprisingly many precedents. Like King Eiders, Glaucous Gulls are "known to do this."

Arctic Terns made a strong showing at Nickerson Beach (probably five different first-summer and two second-summer individuals), Fire Island Inlet (probably two different first-summer and one second-summer), and Moriches Inlet (single first-summer, second-summer, and adult). All records were 1-12 June, and brief visits were the norm: observers following up a previous day's report generally found no Arctic Terns or visibly different individuals at a site. For instance, the first-summer bird photographed at Nickerson Beach on 6 June showed black blotches on the side of the face not present in similar birds photographed there on 5 June and 1 June, and the first-summer bird photographed at Democrat Point on 12 June showed an unusually large and heavy bill, contra a similar bird photographed there on 9 June.

Only a few post-breeding Brown Pelicans ventured as far north as Long Island this season. A series of observations on 9 July is interesting as a possible hint of the speed and habits of this conspicuous but nevertheless often frustrating species: Paul Sweet saw five fly west past Davis Park, Fire Island at 8:15 a.m.;

four (possibly the same) were seen to the west at Robert Moses State Park, at 8:56 a.m. (Pat Lindsay); followed by inside Jones Inlet (Seth Ausubel); and four were at Breezy Point, circling and then flying off westward toward Sandy Hook, NJ just before noon (Peter Paul).

Observers were watching the ocean on 9 July because of Tropical Storm *Elsa*, and a number of notable counts of regularly occurring seabirds are detailed below. Increased coverage of shelf break waters continues to refine our understanding of the seasonal and micro-geographical statuses of formerly almost mythical species, such as **White-faced Storm-Petrel**, **Black-capped Petrel**, and **Audubon's Shearwater**. It is also enhancing our understanding of the commonest species, such as Sooty, Cory's, and Manx Shearwaters, which are often scarce offshore and counter-intuitively seen in larger numbers from shore, albeit under favorable conditions, that the observers can more easily target.

Although there are about 25 previous records of **Wood Stork** in New York State, including many from Region 10, there had been few opportunities for downstate birders to observe this species, until this year. One at the Amazon Fulfillment Center, northwestern Staten Island, 31 July through 9 August was 2021's second chaseable bird, following one at Beaverdam Creek, Suffolk County, in May. Seen alive during the morning on 9 August, the Staten Island bird was found dead around noon that day, having choked on a three-foot piece of plastic foam. José Ramírez-Garofalo salvaged the specimen for the American Museum of Natural History.

Following New York State's first **Roseate Spoonbill**, on Staten Island in 1995, none were recorded in Region 10 until 25 July 2021. On this day, in the course of a phenomenal incursion of spoonbills throughout the East, two were discovered on Long Island, at Cold Spring Harbor, and in the marshes south of Oceanside, Nassau County. The latter was seen and photographed on discovery, then not found again. The former persisted at least through 7 August, occurring on both sides of the Nassau-Suffolk County line, and in one instance resting at length at the mouth of the creek defining the county lines on the south shore of St Johns Pond, to the great frustration of conscientious county listers, and the amusement of others.

Summer 2021 was the second season for the third New York State Breeding Bird Atlas. It is becoming clear that the methodology adopted for the current Atlas, combined with ongoing trends in the priorities and practices of many birders, is leaving a number of traditional challenges unsolved—and perhaps also creating some new problems. In assessing the status of colonial waterbirds, care must be taken to weigh the number and security of actual colonies against overall abundance, at these colonies and via non-breeding visitors. For the most part, known colonies are tracked very well by professionals like John Zarudsky (Town of Hempstead) and various state and federal biologists. In the past, it would be expected that the extra attention arising from atlas effort would detect a number of new or previously unknown stations for each species, but this seems much less likely this time around. For one thing, atlasers have been encouraged

to “code everything, all the time,” which results in numerous false positives for gulls, terns, herons, and others. Even more concerning, perhaps, is the relative absence of assigned blocks and their reciprocal bonds of duty and mentorship, which in past atlases have yielded many fine-scale discoveries of new nesting sites for common, but highly local, species. The sheer abundance of Black Skimmers at Long Island’s two long-standing colonies (Arverne, Queens, with ca. 200 pairs; and Nickerson Beach, Nassau with ca. 400 pairs), tends to obscure the fact that this species has very few options in our Region, with just two additional, much smaller, colonies known at present on Long Island (Atlantic Beach, Nassau and Cartwright Island, Suffolk).

The tendency for everyone to want to cover the “best” places—not to mention people’s desire and ever-increasing ability to see all of the “best” birds—understandably results in a huge volume of much weaker and less carefully focused effort; but even worse, these habits drain effort away from secondary and tertiary sites and greatly reduce the kind of patient and repeated coverage required to document scarce and hard to confirm breeders. American Bittern and Northern Harrier are among the species needing more close attention during the Breeding Bird Atlas. Both have nested in the Region (harriers formerly in numbers), and both tend to be reported in small numbers each summer at traditional stations. Even so, direct evidence of breeding is chronically lacking for both in recent years, and is unlikely to be acquired without directed effort. Other examples include Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawks, and many others.

There is considerable good news as well. Genuinely rare at all seasons in Region 10 as recently as 20 years ago, Bald Eagles have catapulted to unmistakable ubiquity, with reports now expected from any site in New York City or Long Island, on any day of the year. It is worth remembering that Red-tailed Hawk preceded the eagles, in a striking reminder of the volatility of bird populations: the New York City Parks Department estimated that 35 pairs of Red-tailed Hawk now nest within the Five Boroughs (*New York Times*, 9 May 2021, p. 4), whereas none were known there before 1991 (Pale Male). Similarly, according to Robert DeCandido, somewhere between 15 and 20 pairs of Great Horned Owls now nest in greater New York City.

We devoted considerable space in last year’s summer report (KB 70: 395-410) to detailing the then-current status of grassland breeders, forest breeders, and species dependent on localized freshwater microhabitats. Readers interested in these themes will find detailed data in the species accounts below, but we will wait until next year for a fuller re-appraisal.

The first flight of early-arriving freshwater waterfowl was detected widely across the Region on 14 August. This was followed by another on 24 August, with many reports of Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Green-winged Teal, and others thereafter. In the accounts below, numerous notable observations of migrants occurred on 13 or 14 August (Dmitriy Aronov, Tim Healy and Ryan Zucker’s observations of the morning flight at Breezy Point on the former), and again, on 24-25 August, in the wake of Hurricane *Henri*.

Henri formed over the Gulf Stream in mid August and headed north toward Long Island and southern New England. Expectations of species such as tropical terns, tropicbirds, Black-capped Petrel, and Band-rumped Storm-Petrel ran high, but these were not realized. A **Brown Booby** at Riis Park on 23 August (Doug Gochfeld) very likely was *not* directly storm-related, as several were seen both before and after this date around Newark Bay, NJ, one was seen a week earlier at Cusogue County Park, east along the LI shore (Katie Kleinpeter), and two were seen offshore earlier in the month by Doug himself. Perhaps this relatively small storm had formed over waters mainly lacking birds and was small enough to be dodged by the birds in its northward path. But what *Henri* lacked in terms of tropical species, he produced in the form of grounded migrants that ordinarily over-fly our Region. Shorebirds such as American Golden-Plover, Whimbrel, Lesser Yellowlegs and Solitary Sandpiper, and terns such as Black and Caspian, are often seen after storms, and such was the case on the morning of 23 August. The rarest species in this category was a juvenile **Long-tailed Jaeger** at Riis Park, Queens, observed by Doug Gochfeld as it arrived from the north. But the most unusual phenomenon involved Hudsonian Godwits, which were observed in unprecedented numbers, especially notable given that the species was completely missed in Region 10 from June-August last year.

On the morning of 23 August, Jay Rand, Mary Normandia, and we (PJL, SSM) met at Orient Point to look for storm birds. At 9:04 and 9:08, we saw flocks of **30** and **57** Hudsonian Godwits fly close past us on the tip of the point, then heading off to the south or southeast. The first had approached from the north, whereas the second approached from the west, along the Sound shore of the North Fork. Meanwhile, five miles to the west at Truman's Beach, Aidan Perkins, Patrice Domeischel, and Luci Betti saw a flock of **110** flying south across the road, from the Sound to Orient Harbor, at 08:54, then another flock of **20** at Orient Point, crossing from north to south at the ferry terminal. Meeting them there, Pat and I decided to return with them to the tip, where Mary was still keeping vigil. The six of us were treated to one more flock of **107** birds, again approaching from the west along the shore and passing us closely before heading south or southeast. We alerted Brent Bomkamp, Brendan Fogarty, and others in western Suffolk, and those two headed to Robert Moses State Park, on the ocean shore of western Suffolk, to look for godwits. Amazingly, at 11:30, they saw and videoed a flock of **151** Hudsonian Godwits, working westward along the shore.

As information circulated, we learned that a flock of **104** had been seen around 8:00 in Hampden, Massachusetts, near where the Connecticut River crosses into Connecticut, and that others had been seen along the northern shore of Long Island Sound in southwestern Connecticut, including a flock of **194** near Stamford at 11:15. Finally, we learned of one on the Hudson River off of 14th Street in Manhattan, flying south early in the morning, at least seven flying south around 3:00 p.m. near Bantam, in northwestern Connecticut, and two flying southwest past Rye, Westchester County, NY, also in the afternoon. All of the birds on the western Long Island Sound were flying west or southwest along the

shore whereas all of those crossing or rounding Orient Point disappeared into the glare to the south or southeast. Based on the timing of the large flocks at Truman's Beach, Orient Point, Stamford, and Robert Moses State Park, and the assumption that the birds at Orient would not likely cross to the ocean anywhere to the west of Napeague, it seems very unlikely that any of these were duplicates. In contrast, the early morning flock at Hampden, MA was consistent in size, timing, distance, and bearing to have been detected again at Stamford, Truman's Beach, or Orient Point. Thus the best estimate for the number of individuals observed on 23 August is **681**, with **476** in Region 10: **324** in the Orient area and **151** at Robert Moses.

In the exciting period preceding the storm, Pat and I were part of numerous group discussions of storm-birding. These focused not only on birds but our fellow storm-birders, especially Andy Baldelli and Paul Buckley—but also others whom we had recently lost, including Tony Lauro, Bobby Kurtz, and Ned Brinkley. Ned was at Cornell when *Bull's Birds of New York State* was compiled (published in 1998). It is a curious footnote that his species account for Hudsonian Godwit overlooked the then Long Island maximum count: two flocks totaling 41, circling and calling within the eye of Hurricane *Bob* on 19 August 1991, beheld by four astonished storm-birders at Montauk Point: Paul Buckley, Andy Baldelli, Bobby Kurtz, and Tony Lauro (*The Kingbird* 41: 287; *North American Birds* 46: 67). All four of the observers of that event had shared it, and their intense feelings about it, with Pat and me many times over the 30 years and four days that intervened between it and the event discussed here. Most or all of the birds in both events were adults enroute to South America, were it not for a hurricane. Some of them might have been there for both storms, as almost was true among their human observers.

Other rarities, not mentioned above but detailed below, included two **White-winged Doves**, **Rufous Hummingbird**, **Purple Gallinule**, **Bridled Tern**, **Band-rumped Storm-Petrel**, **Leach's Storm-Petrels**, no fewer than **5 Brown Boobies**, **White-faced Ibis** at Jamaica Bay, and a **Swallow-tailed Kite** over Shelter Island. No longer NYSARC reviewable but still rare for the Region were two **Sandhill Cranes**, and an **Evening Grosbeak** photographed on Fire Island on the very unusual dates of 11-12 June.

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ABBREVIATIONS

APEC – Alley Pond Environmental Center, Bayside, QUEE; **APP** – Alley Pd P, QUEE; **BCA** – Bayard Cutting Arboretum, SUFF; **BPt** – Breezy Pt, QUEE; **CCP** – Cupsogue CP, SUFF; **CIC** – Coney I Cr/P, KING; **CJC** – Captree June Count (PIL, SSM compilers); **CP** – Central P, NEWY; **CRSP** – Connetquot Ri SP, SUFF; **CVP** – Calvert Vaux P, KING (formerly Drier-Offerman P); **DP** – Democrat Pt, Fire I, SUFF; **FBF** – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; **FINS** – Fire Island National Seashore, SUFF; **FKP** – Fresh Kills P, RICH; **FT** – Fort Tilden, QUEE; **GKP** – Great Kills P, RICH; **GwC** – Green-wood Cemetery, KING; **HLSP** – Hempstead L SP, NASS; **HSP** – Heckscher SP, SUFF; **IHP** – Inwood Hill P, NEWY; **Jam Bay** – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; **JBSP** – Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWE** – West End, Jones Beach SP, NASS; **MB** – Mecox Bay/Mecox Inlet, SUFF; **MBI** – Moriches Bay/Inlet, SUFF; **Montauk** – Montauk area, T of East Hampton, SUFF; **MP** – Montauk Pt, SUFF; **MPB** – Marine P Brooklyn, KING; **Nap** – Napeague, SUFF; **nb** – northbound; **NB** – Nickerson Beach, NASS; **OlIn** – Old Inlet, Brookhaven, SUFF; **OPt** – Orient Pt, SUFF; **PBP** – Pelham Bay P, BRON; **PlumbB** – Plumb Beach, KING; **PP** – Prospect P, KING; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **RP** – Jacob Riis P, QUEE; **Sagg** – Sagaponack Pd, SUFF; **sb** – southbound; **SBNW** – Stone Bridge Nighthawk Watch, Setauket, SUFF; **SCSP** – Shirley Chisolm SP, KING; **Shinn** – Shinnecock In, SUFF; **SPCP** – Smith Pt CP, SUFF; **SY** – second year; **TY** – third year; **WPP** – Wolfe's Pd P, RICH. **FL, FY, NE, ON** – Atlas breeding codes (see page 419).

WATERFOWL – HUMMINGBIRDS

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK:

Jam Bay 11 Jul through (P. Paul, mob); 4 Mattituck, SUFF 15-16 Jul (B. Bolduc *et al.*).

Snow Goose: Francis Lewis P, QUEE 7 Aug (J. Draves).

Brant: less widely reported than usual, mostly sw LI; max 63 SCSP 15 Jul (DGo).

Canada Goose: 999 CJC 12 Jun; max 600 Miller Field, RICH 28 Aug (ACi).

Mute Swan: 73 CJC 12 Jun, much reduced from the last five years; max 250 Jam Bay 28 Jul.

Wood Duck: 4 CJC 12 Jun; max 44 PP 2 Jul.

Blue-winged Teal: pair CP 23 Jun (MBK *et al.*); 1-4 Jam Bay 5 Jun through Jul (CF *et al.*); Oakland L, APP 8 Jul (L. Tognan); pair Tackapausha Pres, NASS 10 Jun (K. Long); only Jun/Jul reps; arr two sites 14 Aug, more widely from 24 Aug; max 113 Jam Bay 21 Aug (SCam, S. Rappaport).

Northern Shoveler: 2-4 Jam Bay Jun-Jul; Oakland L, APP 8 Jul (L. Tognan); arr 4 CP 14 Aug (J. Suzuko); more widely from 24 Aug; max 40 Jam Bay 28 Aug (DGo); none RICH, NASS, or SUFF.

Gadwall: many reps from all parts of Region except BRON and e SUFF; almost exclusively coastal, east on South Shore to Moriches In, on North Shore to Port Jefferson; 3 CJC 12 Jun; max 125 Jam Bay 9 Jul (DGo).

American Wigeon: 2 Rockaway Beach, QUEE 19 Jun (A. Kling); 1-2 Jam Bay thru; JBWE 9 Jul (SA, MN); Crescent Beach, SUFF 2 Jul (A. Leidig); Frank Melville P, SUFF 10 Jul and later (L. Betti, PDom, *et al.*); only reps.

Mallard: 192 CJC 12 Jun, almost identical to last two yrs; max 430 Jam Bay 21 Aug (SCam, S. Rappaport).

American Black Duck: 11 CJC 12 Jun; max 350 Jam Bay 4 Aug (M. Shanley).

Northern Pintail: a few Jam Bay 13 Jul thru; Mill Pd, Port Washington, NASS 5-6 Jul (C. Patrick).

Green-winged Teal: Matrix Global Logistics P, RICH 27 Jul (ACi); 1-6 Jam Bay thru; Fire I In 12 Jun (E. Mutchnick); arr 14 Aug, more widely from 24 Aug; max 16 Jam Bay 25 Aug (J. Milton).

Greater Scaup: about 7 reps Jun-Jul, east to HSP 17 Jun (D. Cartwright).

Lesser Scaup: 1-2 Jam Bay thru.

King Eider: 2 imm males WPP to GKP thru; imm male MBI 6 Jun (K&SF); imm male L

Montauk In, SUFF 10 Jul and later (NBo *et al.*).

Common Eider: summered widely along the ocean coast, including small flocks to 92; sites included BPt, Jones In, Fire Island In, MBI, Shinn, and numerous sites on LI's South and North Forks; 32 CJC 12 Jun.

Surf Scoter: singles, duos, and trios summered widely again (see last two years), from CIC to Montauk and OPt.

White-winged Scoter: 1-3 reported at Jones In, OPt, and McAllister CP, SUFF.

Black Scoter: many reps along outer coast; also RICH and OPt; max 48 Montauk 12 Jun (U. Mitra).

Long-tailed Duck: 1-2 at eight typical sites.

Bufflehead: Greenport, SUFF 13 Jun (M. Zovco), only rep, fewer than usual.

Hooded Merganser: two juvs Matrix Global Logistics P, RICH 17 Jun and later; also notable CRSP 12 Jun (on CJC, K&SF) and Wertheim NWR SUFF on many dates Jun-Aug, both potential breeding sites.

Common Merganser: 12 WPP 23 Aug (ACi, ph.), very unusual number for date; a similar-sized flock was reported at nearby South Amboy, NJ that day.

Red-breasted Merganser: about a dozen reports of 1-4, mostly along the South Shore bays and beaches, as expected.

Ruddy Duck: many reps Jam Bay, max 50 on 15 Aug; a few others summered at traditional wintering sites, as usual.

Northern Bobwhite: no completely convincing reports of wild birds, given the extent of releases in recent years. Whether any of these are contributing to self-sustaining populations is unknown.

Ring-necked Pheasant: max 10 MPB 11 Jul; persistence of wild populations east of NYC doubtful.

Wild Turkey: present RICH and BRON, unreported KING, QUEE, and NASS; numerous and widespread SUFF, east of about Hauppauge; max 37 Southold, SUFF 20 Jul (JSep).

Pied-billed Grebe: Jam Bay 14 Jul (D. DiGiacopo); Restoration Pd, APP 20 Jul (P. Shure); CRSP 1 Aug and later (V. Glasser *et al.*), ambiguous; others arr late Aug, e.g., CP 25 Aug and Mill Pd Pres, Wantagh, NASS 29 Aug).

Rock Pigeon: 199 CJC 12 Jun, max 316 CP 6 Jul.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: Landing Estates, Southampton, SUFF 30 Jun to 5 Jul (D. & J. Bohrer); Huntington Station, SUFF 5, 12 Jul (M. Brogan).

Mourning Dove: 136 CJC 12 Jun; max 98 Planting Fields Arboretum, NASS 31 Aug (P. Reisfeld).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: relatively few in June this year (not recorded CJC 12 Jun); arr CP 13 Aug and RMSP 31 Aug.

Black-billed Cuckoo: late migrants into early June, e.g., CP 1 Jun; very few reps of likely breeders (not recorded CJC 12 Jun); sb arr Brooklyn Bridge P, KING 15 Aug (M. Yuan).

Common Nighthawk: reps from just six sites Jun-Jul: Oakwood Beach, RICH 4 Jun (ACi); Silver L P, RICH 17 Jun (CB); Snug Harbor, RICH 28 Jul (CB); PP 1 Jul (K. O'Hearn, K. Toomey); Hicksville, NASS 13 Jun (J. Gaglione, R. Haimes); and Mattituck, SUFF 8 Jun (B. Bolduc). First sb migr at SBNW 15 Aug with high counts of 128 on 27 Aug and 145 on 30 Aug (PDom *et al.*).

Chuck-will's-widow: Quogue, SUFF thru 24 Jun; at least three sites on FINS, between Sailor's Haven and Watch Hill, max 3 Blue Pt Beach, FINS 10, 14 Jun (C. Kessler).

Eastern Whip-poor-will: all reps were from known breeding sites in SUFF: Edgewood Oak Brush Plains Pres (max 6 on 24 Jul), CRSP (2 CJC 12 Jun), Rocky Point DEC (2 1, 30 Jun); Manorville, Westhampton area (max 3 on 21 Jun), Nap (2 on 10 Jun); Montauk.

Chimney Swift: 81 CJC 12 Jun; max 350 PP 26 Aug (DGo); coastal max 63 BPT 13 Aug (DAr, RZ).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 2 CJC 12 Jun; sb migrants widely noted 26 Aug; max 7 OPT 23 Aug (MN).

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: ad male East Quogue SUFF 5 Aug (M. Higgiston, E. Schwinn, ph.).

RAILS – TROPICBIRDS

Clapper Rail: 9 CJC 12 Jun; a large *Rallus* in the marshes s of Oceanside, NASS 8 Aug (TH, ph., SP) has a fairly brightly colored breast and was suspected as a possible hybrid Clapper x King Rail; max 18 East High Meadow, QUEE 29 Aug (LDe).

Virginia Rail: reps from five sites in RICH, PBP and seven varied sites in SUFF, including 3 Watch Hill, FINS 12 Jul (P. Sweet), a barrier beach site where breeding had not been suspected.

Sora: 2 Jam Bay 11 Jul, one there 7-8 Aug; one heard in a small wetland in e SUFF 10 Jun; rare and under-documented breeder on Long Island.

Common Gallinule: River Rd marshes, RICH 1 Aug (CB, ACi); PP 31 Jul (mob, ph.), odd date and location.

American Coot: one summered PP; 1-3 Jam Bay 21-24 Jul; one Baisley Pd P, QUEE 3 Aug.

PURPLE GALLINULE: Jam Bay 1-3 Jul (CF *et al.*).

SANDHILL CRANE (R10): Manhasset 13-15 Jun (SP, BF, *et al.*); BPT 17 Jul (M. Epstein *et al.*), distinguished from earlier Manhasset bird by molt state.

American Avocet: NB 18-24 Jul (mob).

American Oystercatcher: 45 CJC 12 Jun; max 317 Point Lookout NASS 17 Aug (R. Buckert *et al.*).

Black-bellied Plover: 2 CJC 12 Jun; max 165 OIn 30 Aug (BBo).

American Golden-Plover: arr 2 Amagansett SUFF 20 Aug (A. Lusty); Eastport turf fields SUFF 24 Aug (F. Durso); JBWE 25 Aug (PJJ); SPCP 30-31 Aug (BBo, mob); OIn 31 Aug (MMcB); only reps.

Semipalmated Plover: 6 CJC 12 Jun; max 350 Jam Bay 16 Aug (GB, TWB).

Piping Plover: 18 CJC 12 Jun; max 31 BPT 22 Jul (L. Ewing).

Killdeer: 33 CJC 12 Jun; max 100 Eastport SUFF 29 Aug.

Upland Sandpiper: FKP 14 Aug (ACi, JRG), only rep.

Whimbrel: max 10 NB 12 Jul (S. Billerman, J. JMcG) and MBI 5 Jul (L. Musher).

Hudsonian Godwit: Jam Bay 9-16 Jul (DGo, mob); Bellport, SUFF 4 Jul (V. Vila); OIn 30-31 Aug (BBo, MMcB); immense flight following TS *Henri* 23 Aug: Hudson Ri at 14th St., NEWY A. Cunningham), heading s at 06:45; 110 Truman's Beach, SUFF (A. Perkins, PDom, L. Betti), single flock crossing North Fork 5 mi. west of OPT at 08:54, heading s; 214 OPT (SSM *et al.*), four flocks, one arriving from n and three from w, all rounding the point and heading s, from 09:04-10:03; 151 RMSP (BBo, BF), single flock, heading w at 11:30; *intro.*

Marbled Godwit: MBI 20 Jun (JRa, ph.), unus date; JoCo Marsh, Jam Bay 4, 11 Jul (LDe); ruins n of Gardiner's I, SUFF 31 Jul (F. Durso); ca. 12 reps 1-31 Aug, all of 1-3, and all from s shore of LI from PlumbB to MB.

Ruddy Turnstone: max nb 378 MBI (PJL, SSM); max sb Gardiner's I, SUFF 3 Aug (A. Farnsworth).

Red Knot: no large counts in Jun; max sb 35 MBI 12 Aug (L. Musher), low.

Stilt Sandpiper: max 55 Jam Bay 6 Aug (E. Becher).

Sanderling: max 4085 RMSP 24 Aug (K&SF).

Dunlin: max nb 10 JBWE 1 Jun (P. Maslow).

Baird's Sandpiper: BPB 25-27 Aug (P. Horan *et al.*); Brooklyn Golf Center, KING 27-28 Aug (DGo *et al.*); Ruffle Bar, Jam Bay 15 Aug (J. Malbin, LDe).

Least Sandpiper: max 450 MB16-17 Jul (ACo, J. JMcG).

White-rumped Sandpiper: max 35 Jam Bay 21 Aug (S. Carroll).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: PlumbB 26-27 Aug; OIn 31 Aug (MMcB); 3 Easport Sod Fields, SUFF 28-31 Aug (JGI *et al.*); 2 Cutchogue, SUFF 31 Aug (B. Bolduc, JRan).

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr PlumbB and Jam Bay 17 Jul; max 10 Jam Bay 14 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: max 1100 Jam 23 Jul (TH, RZ).

Western Sandpiper: max 4 PlumbB 14 Jul (DGo, P. Paul) and 4 MBI 22 Jul (PJL *et al.*).

Short-billed Dowitcher: max 830 Jam Bay 23 Jul (TH, RZ).

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr Jam Bay 24 Jul; max 8 Jam Bay 11 Aug (E. Gitlin).

American Woodcock: reported from 8 sites, the most unusual involving an injured bird found in a completely urban setting in Beford-Stuyvesant KING 16 Jun (A. Graham).

Spotted Sandpiper: breeding confirmed FKP, SCSP, Sammy's Beach, SUFF, Amagansett, SUFF, and Gardiner's I, SUFF; max 12 Fisher's I, SUFF 10 Jul.

Solitary Sandpiper: max 4 Kodu, Brookhaven SUFF 31 Jul (R. Tagger).

Lesser Yellowlegs: max 300 Jam Bay 23 Jul (TH, RZ).

"Eastern" Willet: 47 CJC 12 Jun, average for count; max 217 MBI 22 Jul, (SSM *et al.*).

"Western" Willet: arr DP 30 Jun (P. Horan), faded alt; 7 MBI 22 Jul (SSM *et al.*), early for so many; max 10 MBI 4 Aug (SSM).

Greater Yellowlegs: 11 CJC 12 Jun; max 109 Sunset Cove P, QUEE (ABk).

Wilson's Phalarope: arr Jam Bay 3 Aug (K. Mirth); 2 on 4 Aug and later; last on 25 Aug; juv HSP 27 Aug (JGI) to 28 Aug; only reports.

Red-necked Phalarope: 1-3 Jam Bay 5-18 Aug (mob); 2 offshore Rockaway Beach,

QUEE 14 Aug (TH); 2 Napeague Harbor, SUFF 22 Aug (AnW), during *Henri*; 3 LI Sound, off Mill Neck, NASS 29 Aug (BBQ), very unusual location.

POMARINE JAEGER (R10): Hudson Canyon 13 Aug (TJ); 3 ca. 30 mi ne Hudson Canyon 20 Aug (TJ); regular offshore but very rarely documented from land in R10.

Parasitic Jaeger: Riis P 10 Jun (BF), unusual w of SUFF; 2 RMSP 12 Jun (SSM *et al.*); SPCP 12 Jun (D. Powell); Montauk near shore waters 31 Jul (V. Pellegrino); Napeague Beach, SUFF 7 Aug (B. Browne); 2 Napeague Harbor (AnW) and one Little Reed Pd, Montauk (J. Vinovsky) 22 Aug, during *Henri*; OPT 23 Aug (SSM *et al.*); only reports; *intro*.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: RP 24 Aug (DGo, ph.), dark juv; *intro*.

Bonaparte's Gull: scattered reps of 1-5 along s shores of Staten I and LI in all three months; max 5 at three sites: GKP 24 Jul (CB); Georgica Pd, SUFF 6 Aug; and Sagg 20 Aug (ACo).

Laughing Gull: 1015 CJC 12 Jun, many, ON; max 1000 Jam Bay 15 Aug (BF) and 1000 BPT 24 Aug (ABk).

Ring-billed Gull: 54 CJC 12 Jun; max 210 JBSP 7 Aug (E. Becher).

Herring Gull: 410 CJC 12 Jun, FL; max 1000 Middle Line I, NASS 24 Aug.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: 41 CJC 12 Jun; max 185 RMSP 28 Aug (KF).

Glaucous Gull: imms NB 15-16 Jun and Westhampton Dunes Overlook CP SUFF 24 Jun.

Great Black-backed Gull: 1056 CJC 12 Jun, huge inc, ON; 650 BPT 5 Jul (DGo, P. Paul).

BRIDLED TERN: ca. 30 mi ne Hudson Canyon 7 Aug (JSh, AnW); Hudson Canyon 27 Aug (A. Davis *et al.*).

Least Tern: 419 total and max 275 at DP on CJC 12 Jun, NE.

Gull-billed Tern: many reps from traditional sites around Jam Bay and Jones In, NASS; max 13 Yellow Bar Hassock Jam Bay 8 Aug (J. Malbin, LDe); further east, singles RMSP 13 Jul (JMcG *et al.*) and Tiana Beach 8 Jun (E. Schwinn *et al.*).

Caspian Tern: max 31 Fort Washington P NEWY 23 Aug (JMcG), *intro*.

Black Tern: max 17 Shinn 28 Aug (JGI).

Rosate Tern: 11 CJC 12 Jun; max 500 Plum Gut, Orient SUFF 27 Jun (SSM, PJL).

Common Tern: 941 CJC 12 Jun, very good number, ON; max 3000 NB 5 Jun (SSM, PJL), and 6 Jun (P. Paul).

ARCTIC TERN (R10): ca. 13 individuals, all 1-12 Jun: 5 SY and 2 TY NB, 2 SY and one TY Fire I In, and single SY, TY, and adult MBI; *intro*.

Forster's Tern: 29 CJC 12 Jun; max 300 Dubos Pt, QUEE 27 Jul (CF).

Royal Tern: max 104 OlN 30 Aug (BBo).

Black Skimmer: 3 CJC 12 Jun; max 1000 NB 29 Aug (SSM *et al.*).

LOONS – PARAKEET

Red-throated Loon: no reps.

Common Loon: 4 CJC 12 Jun, max.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel: 15 CJC 12 Jun; max 258 MP 9 Jul (NBo).

WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL: slope side of Block Canyon 17 Aug (TJ); shelf side of Block Canyon 20 Aug (TJ, ph.).

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL: ca. Hudson Canyon 13 Aug (TJ); 2 ca. Block Canyon 20 Aug (TJ).

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL(R10): 2 Hudson Canyon 12 Jun (J. Christopher Haney), only rep Jun-Jul; 6 reps of 1-4 Block Canyon area 7-20 Aug; max 4 NOAA survey SUFF 17 Aug (TJ).

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL: 3 reps of singles near Block Canyon 20 Aug (TJ, ph.).

Cory's Shearwater: 16 CJC 12 Jun; 64 Wainscott Beach, SUFF 25 Jun (HMcG; max 78 MP 9 Jul (NBo); only a few counts of single digits beyond Montauk near-shore waters.

Sooty Shearwater: 17 CJC 12 Jun, max; during *Elsa*, 2 SPCP (A. Perkins, KK) and 5 MP (NBo); no reps beyond Montauk near-shore waters.

Great Shearwater: 1 CJC 12 Jun; max 49 MP 9 Jul (NBo); 12 RMSP 28 Aug (PJJ, SSM); widely rep in small numbers offshore.

Manx Shearwater: 1 CJC 12 Jun; max 5 RMSP 28 Aug (SSM, PJJ); no reps beyond Montauk near-shore waters.

Audubon's Shearwater: no reps Jun-Jul; widely rep offshore from 8 Aug, generally 1-4; max 18 ca. Hudson Canyon 30 Aug (DGo *et al.*).

WOOD STORK: Matrix Global Logistics P, RICH 31 Jul (ACi) to 9 Aug (JRG), salvaged, to AMNH; *intro*.

BROWN BOOBY: ad Upper New York Bay, KING 5 Aug (RZ); ad female came aboard NOAA vessel ca. 25 mi s Moriches In, SUFF 6 Aug (DGo, ph.); imm ca. 60 mi se Shinn 8 Aug (A. Black, DGo); CCP 17 Aug (KK); ad or older imm RP 23 Aug (DGo); *intro*.

Northern Gannet: 62 CJC 12 Jun; single site max 29 CCP 7 Jun (SSM, PJJ).

Double-crested Cormorant: 421 CJC 12 Jun; max 500 Franklin D, Roosevelt Boardwalk and Beach RICH 9 Jul (ACi) and 500 Miller Field RICH 18 Jul (ACi).

Great Cormorant: max 4 OPt 29 Jun (JSeP).

Brown Pelican: widely reported south shore of RICH and ocean shore of LI, arr CCP 30 Jun (JRun), ph.

American Bittern: scattered singles RICH (2), NASS (2), and SUFF (3), none repeated nor with any evidence of breeding; *intro*.

Least Bittern: reported only from two sites in RICH, Jam Bay and two sites of the North Fork, SUFF.

Great Blue Heron: 7 CJC 12 Jun; max 30 Jam Bay 18 Jul (T. Preston).

Great Egret: 110 CJC 12 Jun; high count; max single site 86 Jam Bay 21 Jul (CF).

Snowy Egret: 37 CJC 12 Jun; max 82 OlN 30 Aug (BBo).

Little Blue Heron: 1 CJC 12 Jun; max 9 Captree I SUFF 21 Jul (SSM, Pat Martin).

Tricolored Heron: 3 CJC 12 Jun; max 3 Captree Marshes SUFF 10 Jun & 21 Jul and Seaman's Neck P NASS 2 Aug.

Cattle Egret: no reports.

Green Heron: 9 CJC 12 Jun; max 7 Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area NASS 15 Aug (J. McManus).

Black-crowned Night-Heron: 12 CJC 12 Jun; max 57 Jam Bay 15 Jul (CF).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron: max 15 Cammanns Pd P NASS 29 Aug (J. Landesberg).

Glossy Ibis: 30 CJC 12 Jun; 60 Jam Bay 18 Jul T. Preston).

WHITE-FACED IBIS: Jam Bay 13 Jun (ABk, ph.) through 21 Jul (mob).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: marshes s of Oceanside NASS 25 Jul (BFo, TH, SP); Cold Spring Harbor (L. F. Melliny, Russell Taylor) 25 Jul to 7 Aug. First records for LI, NASS, and SUFF; *intro*.

Black Vulture: still scarce e of extreme w parts of the Region, with reports of 1-2 from one site in QUEE and three sites in SUFF.

Turkey Vulture: 2 CJC 12 Jun; max 28 New Dorp RICH 27 Aug (H. Fischer); widely reported throughout Region, scarce only s NASS and sw SUFF.

Osprey: 158 CJC 12 Jun; astonishingly abundant.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: Shelter I SUFF 6 Jun (T. Norris, ph.).

Northern Harrier: Lemon Creek Pier RICH 15 Jun (J. Fiorito); f Tobay 19 Jul (P. Maslow, J. Wilson-Pines), trad breeding site; 3 reps Captree Marshes SUFF 10 Jun to 17 Jul, a trad breeding site; molting f Brookhaven Hamlet SUFF 10 Jun (P. Reisfeld, ph.); 2 reps E. Moriches SUFF 26 Jun, 15 Jul (D. DeFeo); 3 reps Gardiner's I/Nap 2 Jun to 24 Jul, an area with past reps in Jun; migrants numerous from mid August; *intro*.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: FKP 4 Jun (ACi), very rare Jun-Jul; New Dorp RICH 13 Aug (H. Fischer); FBF 29 Aug (D. Paul, P. Paul).

Cooper's Hawk: 2 CJC 12 Jun; widely reported all counties.

Bald Eagle: one CJC 12 Jun; widely reported in all counties.

Red-shouldered Hawk: 4 Lake Panamoka, Wading River SUFF 11 Jun and later (L. Wollerstein, mob), nesting successfully again; Opt 5, 9 Jun (JSep, M. Stokowski); also juv 1 Aug (JRan); Opt is a trad site for migrating/wandering raptors, but this series of reps warrants follow-up next season.

Broad-winged Hawk: Montauk 5 Jun (TS); a few sb in extreme w of Region from 9 Aug.

Red-tailed Hawk: 7 CJC 12 Jun; 35 prs nesting in NYC (NYC Parks, *intro*).

Barn Owl: at least a few present at trad sites, sw LI.

Eastern Screech-Owl: 10 CJC 12 Jun.

Great Horned Owl: one CJC 12 Jun; at least 15 prs in Manhattan alone (RDeC); reported from all counties.

Barred Owl: CP 1 Jun through 5 Aug, unus site.

Belted Kingfisher: not reported CJC 12 Jun.

Red-headed Woodpecker: reps of single ads at Fort Greene P KING 4 Jun and two sites RICH 24 & 28 Jun, unus for date and location; two pairs fledged young again near Manorville SUFF (V. Pellegrino); ad Northwest Woods, East Hampton, SUFF 30 Jul (M. Wolffsohn), *intro*.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: 67 CJC 12 Jun.

Downy Woodpecker: 39 CJC 12 Jun.

Hairy Woodpecker: 10 CJC 12 Jun.

Northern Flicker: 33 CJC 12 Jun.

Pileated Woodpecker: no reps beyond RICH.

American Kestrel: max 6 Gramercy NEWY 9-28 Jun.

Merlin: FT 15 Jul and Jam Bay 16 Jul, odd dates; otherwise arr 11 Aug.

Peregrine Falcon: one CJC 12 Jun; reported from all counties in Region.

Monk Parakeet: 7 CJC 12 Jun; max 25 GwC 21 Aug and Hewlett NASS 30 Aug.

FLYCATCHERS – SNOW BUNTING

Great Crested Flycatcher: 65 CJC 12 Jun.

Eastern Kingbird: 21 CJC 12 Jun; max 213 BPt (TH, RZ).

Olive-sided Flycatcher: CP & PP 1 Jun, last nb; sb arr PBP 31 Jul (R. Aracil, ph.), exceptionally early; 6 more from 9 Aug, all NYC.

Eastern Wood-Pewee: 16 CJC 12 Jun; max 15 Hunters Garden, Eastport SUFF 16 Aug.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: a few nb reps thru 6 Jun; sb arr 20 Aug IHP (N. O'Reilly); 7 nb reps from 16 Aug, including max 2 Wolf Pres SUFF 27 Aug (JRan).

Acadian Flycatcher: Clay Pit Pds SP, RICH 5 Jun (ACi) and MPB 9 Jun (HL), presumed nb migrants; Brooklyn Bride Walkway KING 18 Jun (A. Khalifa), indicative of date range of transients; three reps of birds singing in plausibly suitable breeding contexts: PP through Jun, Manhasset NASS 7 Jun (SP) and Welwyn Pres NASS 12 Jun; no reps of sb migrants.

Alder Flycatcher: nb MPB 4 Jun (HL) and Arshamomaque Pres SUFF 6 Jun (JSep); Brooklyn Bridge P KING 25-26 Aug (M. Yuan, audio rec; *et al.*), only sb report.

Willow Flycatcher: 53 CJC 12 Jun; single-site max 20 FKP 4 Jun (JRG).

Least Flycatcher: MPB 1, 4 Jun (HL); CP 31 Jul (A. Cunningham), early; max 2, 7 sites 15-24 Aug.

Eastern Phoebe: one CJC 12 Jun, widely but sparsely distributed as a breeder in Region, absent from many areas.

White-eyed Vireo: 15 CJC 12 Jun.

Yellow-throated Vireo: a pair nested successfully at Uplands Farm Sanctuary SUFF (L. F. Melliny, Russell. Taylor; JRan, ph.); 1-2 Peconic Ri, Calverton SUFF 6-18 Jun (PJJ, SSM, *et al.*); sb arr 29 Aug.

Warbling Vireo: 42 CJC 12 Jun.

Red-eyed Vireo: 74 CJC 12 Jun.

American Crow: 61 CJC 12 Jun; almost all reports in single digits, especially those with details indicating careful identification.

Fish Crow: 104 CJC 12 Jun; single-site counts 10-100 routine.

Common Raven: 9 CJC 12 Jun; widely reported from all 7 counties.

Horned Lark: 5 CJC 12 Jun; max 10 Gardiner's I SUFF 3 Aug (A. Farnsworth).

Purple Martin: 44 CJC 12 Jun; max 296 RMSP 5 Aug (SSM), large number.
Tree Swallow: 116 CJC 12 Jun; max 3000 Arshamomaque Pres SUFF 2 Aug (JRan).
Northern Rough-winged Swallow: 12 CJC 12 Jun.
Bank Swallow: one CJC 12 Jun, rare on south shore outside of migration; max 35 BPt 13 Aug (DAR, TH, RZ).
Cliff Swallow: potential breeders present again PBP and APEC; small numbers of migrants along outer coast from 19 Jul.
Barn Swallow: 292 CJC 12 Jun; max 575 BPt 13 Aug (DAR, TH, RZ).
Black-capped Chickadee: 60 CJC 12 Jun.
Tufted Titmouse: 31 CJC 12 Jun.
Red-breasted Nuthatch: a few widely scattered reps in Jun, perhaps not unusual after a big flight year; small numbers sb from 20 Aug.
White-breasted Nuthatch: 13 CJC 12 Jun.
Brown Creeper: PBP 9 Jun (N. Dawson), only rep.
House Wren: 43 CJC 12 Jun.
Sedge Wren: FKP 14 Jul through (S. Curley, JRG); up to six singing males.
Marsh Wren: 27 CJC 12 Jun.
Carolina Wren: 109 CJC 12 Jun.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 26 CJC 12 Jun, lowest in 7 yrs, vs. avg 43.
Eastern Bluebird: well distributed in SUFF, including South Shore sites such as CRSP and Wertheim NWR, and n NASS, where exclusively n of moraine; absent s NASS & NYC except for two odd reps: GwC 5 Jun and CVP 20 Jun (A. Honeywood).
Veery: max 8 CRSP (K&SF), CJC.
Gray-checked Thrush: PP 1 Jun; Wading River SUFF (B. Bull, ph.), rarely rep in spring in SUFF.
Swainson's Thrush: many reps 1; last nb Brooklyn Bridge P KING 17 Jun (M. Yuan, ph.), exceptionally late; sb arr GwC 28 Aug; no reports east of NYC by season's end.
Hermit Thrush: territorial birds reliably reported at six sites in the SUFF Pine Barrens from Rocky Point to Hunters Garden; also Bull Path, Northwest Woods, East Hampton SUFF 8 Jun (M. Wolffsohn).
Wood Thrush: sparsely but widely reported, mostly from mesic "mainland" and North Shore of LI sites (vs. coastal plain of s NASS and sw-sc SUFF).
American Robin: 349 CJC 12 Jun.
Gray Catbird: 440 CJC 12 Jun.
Brown Thrasher: 7 CJC 12 Jun.

Northern Mockingbird: 105 CJC 12 Jun.
European Starling: 489 CJC 12 Jun.
Cedar Waxwing: 111 CJC 12 Jun.
House Sparrow: 291 CJC 12 Jun vs. 7-yr avg 208.
EVENING GROSBEEK (R10): male Fire Island Pines SUFF 11-12 Jun (J. Pettet, ph.), very unusual date.
House Finch: 35 CJC 12 Jun.
Purple Finch: Tompkins Square P NEWY 2 Jun (L. Beausoleil).
European Goldfinch: BPt 17 Jul (BFo); many reps, up to 4 at a time, PP, GwC, and environs.
American Goldfinch: 60 CJC 12 Jun.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS – CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: 123 CJC 12 Jun.
Chipping Sparrow: 85 CJC 12 Jun.
Clay-colored Sparrow: MPB, 10 Jun (HL *et al.*), singing; very unusual date.
Field Sparrow: 5 CJC 12 Jun.
Vesper Sparrow: no documented reports.
Lark Sparrow: arr CP 21 Aug (DAR, N. Brase), unusual loc; MPB 30 Aug (HL *et al.*); RMSP 24 Aug (SSM).
Savannah Sparrow: breeders numerous only at FKP; otherwise widely reported but very local, in small numbers.
Grasshopper Sparrow: territorial birds noted FKP, Calverton, Cutchogue, and Nap SUFF; max 30 FKP 4 Jun (JRG); none noted in w SUFF or Westhampton SUFF areas this season.
Seaside Sparrow: 96 CJC 12 Jun, 7 yr max.
Nelson's Sparrow: PlumbB 1 Jun & 2 MPB 4 Jun (HL), only reps.
Saltmarsh Sparrow: 122 CJC 12 Jun, 7 yr max.
Song Sparrow: 184 CJC 12 Jun; max 30 F. D. Roosevelt Boardwalk and Beach RICH 1 Jun; 30 Brookfield P RICH 19 Jun (CB) and 30 there 19 Jul (ACi).
Lincoln's Sparrow: last nb 2 Jun.
Swamp Sparrow: potential breeders in BRON, RICH, and KING, but only 2 sites SUFF.
White-throated Sparrow: many reps through summer in NYC parks but only two Jun reps to the east; sb arrival discernible from 24 Aug, early.
Yellow-breasted Chat: Ocean Breeze P RICH 4 Jul (P. Brown), only rep of potential breeder; arr PBP 24 Aug (N. Dawson); North Fork Pres SUFF 25 Aug (JRan); Marine P 31 Aug (HL); only reps.
Yellow-headed Blackbird: fNB 25 Aug (KF).

Bobolink: Jun reps from Governors I NEWY, Manhasset NASS, and Caumsett SP SUFF; max 40 FKP 14 Aug (JRG).

Eastern Meadowlark: RMSP 29 Jun (SSM *et al.*, ph.), very unus date/site combination; potential breeders restricted to Manorville-Calverton area except for Peconic SUFF farm 14 Aug (N. Pearson).

Orchard Oriole: 7 CJC 12 Jun.

Baltimore Oriole: 71 CJC 12 Jun, 7 yr min; max 15 Crab Meadow Beach SUFF 25 Aug (BBo).

Red-winged Blackbird: 604 CJC 12 Jun.

Brown-headed Cowbird: 92 CJC 12 Jun.

Common Grackle: 311 CJC 12 Jun.

Boat-tailed Grackle: 30 CJC 12 Jun; max 61 Jam Bay 1 Aug (AnW).

Ovenbird: 10 CJC 12 Jun; max 16 Hunters Garden SUFF 13 Jun (MMcB), good count of breeders.

Worm-eating Warbler: Southold SUFF 18 Jun (MSch), very rare breeder in Region; FBF 3 Jul (M. Epsein, ph.) and 2 CP 4 Jul (J. Romano), probable molt-migrants; otherwise arr 1 Aug.

Louisiana Waterthrush: 2-5 Southold SUFF 12-23 Jun, pr nested successfully; arr CP 20 Jul (S. Chang).

Northern Waterthrush: widely rep 1 Jun; later in Manhattan parks; arr RMSP 22 Aug; max 10 Jam Bay 7 Aug and 10 BPt 13 Aug.

Blue-winged Warbler: 10 CJC 12 Jun; widely rep 15 Aug and later, e.g., 24 Aug.

Black-and-white Warbler: very few reps of potential breeders, mostly from North Shore of LI and Montauk area; 2 CJC 12 Jun; max 12 Lily Pd P SUFF 29 Aug (PDom).

Prothonotary Warbler: CP 6 Jun and 11-24 Aug (mob), only reps.

Tennessee Warbler: RMSP 22 Jul (PJL, SSM), unus date; arr 15 Aug; about a dozen reports of singles 24-31 Aug, mostly from NYC parks.

Nashville Warbler: arr 25 Aug.

Connecticut Warbler: no reports.

Mourning Warbler: 8 reports thru 7 Jun, all NYC except HLSP 3 Jun (J. Gaglione *et al.*) and Ruth Oliva Pres, E. Marion SUFF 1 Jun (JRan).

Kentucky Warbler: APP 22 Jun (S. Walter), only rep.

Common Yellowthroat: 108 CJC 12 Jun.

Hooded Warbler: two reps of singing birds in suitable-looking habitat: Blydenburgh CP SUFF 8 Jun and Oakdale SUFF 12 Jun (BBo), on CJC; arr Jam Bay 4 Aug.

American Redstart: 8 CJC 12 Jun; max 22 GwC 29 Aug.

Cape May Warbler: max 3 CP 28 Aug (R. Serio).

Northern Parula: widely reported 1-3 Jun from migrant traps inappropriate for breeding, but also lingering/prospecting more widely than usual into mid-late June: CP to 18 Jun, CRSP 5 Jun, Peconic R, Calverton SUFF 18 Jun, Hither Hills SP SUFF 13 Jun, and males singing at three sites in and near Camp Hero, Montauk 15 Jun (2) and 20 Jun (1); all of the SUFF sites resemble breeding habitat; max 9 Sands Pt Pres NASS 31 Aug (B. Garriel *et al.*).
Magnolia Warbler: max 3 GwC 29 Aug (M. Silber).

Bay-breasted Warbler: last nb 3 Jun; arr CP 15 Aug, then four singles 24-29 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: last nb 5 Jun; arr CP 5 Aug, early; next earliest 15 Aug.

Yellow Warbler: 242 CJC 12 Jun, FY; 9 RMSP (PJL, SSM), first strong flight; max sb 28 BPt 13 Aug (DAR, TH, RZ).

Chestnut-sided Warbler: after a few Jun stragglers in the NYC parks, once again there were no reports suggestive of breeding and just one stray in Jul: PBP 4 Jul (D. Chernack); arr 13 Aug and widely rep 18 Aug and later; max 9 APP 15 Aug (P. Reisfeld).

Blackpoll Warbler: widely rep thru 5 Jun, with several more thru mid-month; nb max 4 CP 1 Jun and 4 GwC 1 Jun; no Aug reps.

Black-throated Blue Warbler: CP 1 Jun (MBK *et al.*); arr 14 Aug; max 4 CP 29 Aug).

Palm Warbler: arr CPP 31 Aug (A. Yuan).

Pine Warbler: 36 CJC 12 Jun; single-site max 30 Hunters Garden SUFF 29 Aug.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Ruth Oliva Pres, East Marion SUFF 23 Jun (M. Zovko), unus date; arr Jam Bay 15 Aug (g. recer), very early; WPP 27 Aug (ACi); 3 more reps 29-31 Aug.

Yellow-throated Warbler: 1-2 BCA from spring through 19 Jun; pair 12 Jun on the CJC, the male singing and the female feeding a juv Brown-headed Cowbird; only reps.

Prairie Warbler: 9 CJC 12 Jun; single-site max 18 West Meadow Wetlands Res, Brookhaven SUFF 2 Jun (PDom).

Black-throated Green Warbler: 4 reps NYC thru 7 Jun; male singing persistently Astoria P QUEE 17 Jun (TH), unus date; arr 20 Aug.

Canada Warbler: last nb 9 Jun, late; arr 11 Aug; max 10 CP 15 Aug (TH, J. Spindel, RZ).

Wilson's Warbler: last nb 6 Jun; arr 14; all singles.

Summer Tanager: CP 17 Jun (I. Lara); GwC 20 Aug (H. Nove, ph.); only reps.

Scarlet Tanager: 3 CJC 12 Jun; no notable counts thru end of Aug; much reduced as a breeder in the Region.

Northern Cardinal: 132 CJC 12 Jun, vs. 7-yr avg 121.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: ca. 18 possible breeding sites, mostly on or near the North Shore of QUEE, NASS, and SUFF; also CRSP 5 & 17 Jun (V. Glasser) and two sites near North Sea, Southampton (F. Durso); sb migr arr several sites 7 Aug, widespread 24-25 Aug and later.

Blue Grosbeak: BPt 1 Jun (ABk); MPB 13 Jun (HL); breeders found only at several RICH sites and just three sites in SUFF breeding areas; fewer than last year.

Indigo Bunting: 2 CJC 12 Jun; breeders concentrated in RICH and n of moraine on LI; BPt 13 Aug (DAr, TH, RZ), otherwise little evidence of sb migration by end of period.

Dickeissel: about 15 reps, more than usual: five from s shore of RICH, two from coastal Brooklyn; two from BPt on unusually early dates, 28 Jul (DGo) and 31 Jul (SSi); max 4 Crab Meadow Beach SUFF 24 Aug (BBo, TS).



Track map of Hurricane *Henri* of the 2021 Atlantic hurricane season. The points show the location of the storm at 6-hour intervals, from 15-24 August 2021. FleurDeOdile, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.

REPORTING YOUR OBSERVATIONS

Observers are strongly encouraged to report their findings directly to the Regional Editors, to help identify significant trends. Summary reports of observations; impressions of notable patterns in the weather, timing of migration, unusual scarcity or abundance of particular species, etc.; and notable individual records are highly valued. For maximum usefulness, send in reports no later than the 15th day of the month following the end of each season:

15 March, 15 June, 15 September, and 15 December.

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

Regional rarities appear in BOLD; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in UPPER CASE letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! – details seen by Regional Editor; ad – adult; alt – alternate plumage; arr – arrival or first of season; BBS – Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS – bird of the season; CBC – Christmas Bird Count; Co – County; I – Island; imm – immature; intro – see introduction to report; juv – juvenile; L – Lake; max – maximum; mob – multiple observers; Mt – Mountain; NYSDEC – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR – National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC – report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P – park; Pd – Pond; ph – photographed; Pres – Preserve; Pt – Point; Res – Reservoir; Ri – River; SP – State Park; spm – specimen; subad – subadult; T – Town of; thru – throughout period; Twn – township; WMA – Wildlife Management Area; y – young.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS CODES

These codes are listed in ascending order to highest breeding codes.

POSSIBLE: H – in appropriate habitat; S – singing bird.

PROBABLE: S7 – singing male present 7+ days; M – multiple (7+) singing males; P – pair in suitable habitat; T – territorial defense; C – courtship, display, or copulation; N – visiting probable nest site; A – agitated behavior; B – woodpecker/wren nest building.

CONFIRMED: PE – physiological evidence; CN – carrying nesting material; NB – nest building; DD – distraction display; UN – used nest; ON – occupied nest; FL – recently fledged and precocial young; CF – carrying food; FY – feeding young; FS – carrying fecal sac; NE nest with eggs; NY – nest with young.

REPORTING REGIONS

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:

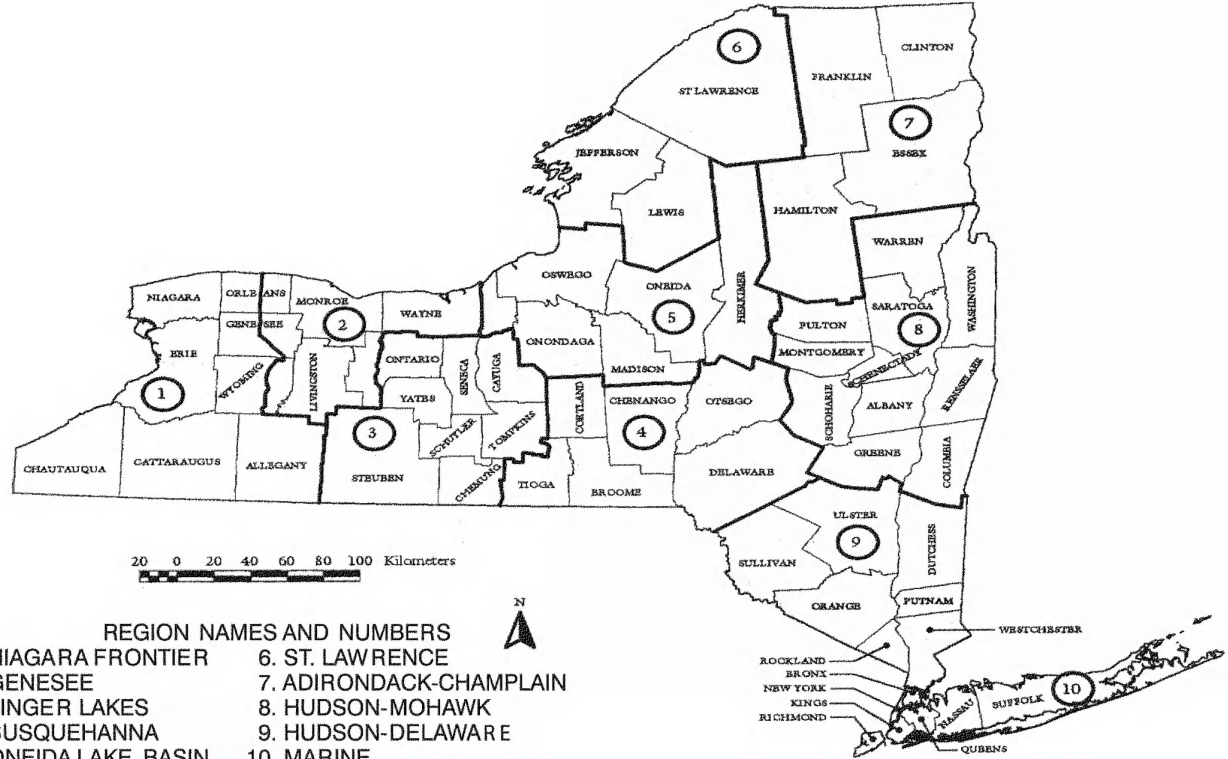
the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia; NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19 from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:

the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64 from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21 from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.



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